
Policy on **Music**

December 2024

Pardes House Primary
School

Headteacher: Rabbi J Sager

POLICY ON MUSIC

Intent

Our intent for Music is to teach a rich, balanced and progressive curriculum using different forms of musical expression to develop instrumental skills, advance pupil awareness and appreciation of classical music and develop an understanding of the history of music. Music forms an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum and is a subject where we try to ensure that children develop an enjoyment and enthusiasm for their learning, whether through the direct curriculum or through extra-curricular opportunities.

The structure of the Music curriculum across our school allows for multiple opportunities for cross curricular teaching. This includes music forming a part of the Kodesh (Religious Studies) curriculum and acts as a thread to weave together the unique tapestry of the secular and non-secular learning which takes place.

Key knowledge and skills are also revisited, allowing repetition in order to embed learning. We aim to provide a range of different types of musical learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Music can act as a pathway to boosted mental health and we encourage the children to see it as an important part of everyday life. There is a specific Music curriculum but alongside that, there is a Classical Music Appreciation Society, classical music played at every lunchtime in the Hall, pupil-led concerts every term and more besides.

In Music, we aim for all our children to grow in confidence and ability; where they learn to play an instrument and feel confident doing so on their own and as part of a group, have a knowledge of classical compositions, have a strong understanding of how music can make us feel and why and be able to delve into the history of music in this country and beyond.

Through careful planning, resourcing, delivery and assessment, we aim to ensure our Music curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND, Pupil Premium and those at Greater Depth.

Music in Pardes House

Music is a part of school life and our new music curriculum will engage and inspire pupils to develop both a love of music and their talent as musicians. Through this we aim to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. Additionally, music is found throughout the school on a daily, weekly and termly basis through:

- Prayers and Grace After Meals which contain songs;
- Termly instrument and singing concerts;
- Classical Music Appreciation Society;
- Visits to local old age homes;
- Yiddish Song Festival;
- Lunch time classical music entertainment;
- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils singing at key milestone events.

The Foundation Stage

Music is taught within the Foundation Stage to complement the Early Years Framework. The boys are introduced to classical music and are taught skills so they can compose music in small groups, with individual and group singing. They are exposed to a variety of instruments and begin to explore how music can impact their feelings.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Composers

Our curriculum aims for children to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods. This includes the works of the great composers and other musicians. We explore the works of composers from varied backgrounds, including:

- Vivaldi;
- Mozart;
- Beethoven;
- Beach;
- Elgar;
- Coleridge-Taylor.

In the school's 'Classical Music Appreciation Society', composers explored include:

- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky;
- Frédéric Chopin;
- Edward Elgar;
- Paul Dukas;
- Gustav Holst;
- Clara Schumann;
- William Grant Still;
- Silvestre Revueltas;
- George Friedrich Handel;
- Georges Bizet.

We explore these different composers to:

- Develop the boys' understanding of the history of music;
- Explore a range of composers from around the world and from different backgrounds and ethnic origins;
- Learn about the health benefits of listening to music;
- Explore emotions;
- Link music to art;
- Link music to modern day musicians and performers, such as the Miami Boys Choir and Yeshiva Boys Choir.

Some of these choices further reflect our commitment to Fundamental British Values within the school and to develop the boys' knowledge and understanding of different cultures around the world.

Instruments

Pupils are taught across the school how to play instruments, the discipline of these and where possible, to take part in performances to other pupils and parents, to showcase their skills. Learning an instrument helps pupils understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including some of the key skills and knowledge, such as pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.

Instruments learned at Pardes House include:

- Tambourines;
- Shakers;
- Drums;
- Xylophones;
- Recorder;
- Bongo drums.

Classical Music Appreciation Society

For a number of years, the school has had a ‘Classical Music Appreciation Society’, led by the Headteacher and open to pupils in Key Stage 2. The purpose of the society (a weekly lunchtime club), is to further develop the boys knowledge and understanding of orchestras and a range of classical composers, from different countries, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. The weekly club includes background learning and activities about the different composers, listening to and discussing their music, as well as watching their music being performed by full orchestras.

School Choir

The choir, numbering approximately 15-20 boys from Key Stage 2 classes are trained to sing as a group, including how to reach high notes and singing harmonies. The choir performs in public in local old age homes several times a year;

School Concerts

At the end of both the Spring and Summer terms, there are two music concerts. These are opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents, bravery (at performing in public) and skills developed over time, whether through singing or playing instruments. All pupils in Key Stage 2 are welcome to participate, while the concerts take place in front of the whole school, staff and parents.

Management of Resources

The Subject Leader is responsible for selecting, building and maintaining resources within budgetary limits. These decisions will be made in conjunction with the Headteacher and will reflect the state of the subject as per its evaluation and review.

Equal Opportunities

We believe that all our pupils must have equal access to the Music curriculum regardless of gender, race or ability. We aim to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible. We aim to match the tasks and resources; the differing styles of learning, and the differing paces of learning to the ability of the child.