Music through the Early years at St Mary's

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.

In Nursery and Reception we teach Music through the EYFS area of Expressive Arts and Design.

Nursery

By the end of their time in Nursery, children will have had many opportunities to explore St Mary's Big Ideas **Appraising, Experimentation and Performance** through listening to a wide range of music, singing, exploring musical instruments and sounds and moving and dancing in response to music.

Appraising

Nursery children are given lots of opportunity to listen to a wide range of music from Nursery Rhymes, Pop songs and classical music. They have the freedom to respond to music in any way they choose and express their preferences through their response or verbally. For example, in P.E. children can dance or play musical instruments in response to a wide range of music and may express how they like the music and where they have heard it such as a film. They are introduced to new music in P.E., in class and when performing in the Christmas play.

Experimentation

Nursery children are free to respond to music how they wish through movement, singing or through playing an instrument. They also have opportunities to make their own music in the classroom using a wide range of instruments. They are taught simple rhymes and songs which they sing freely during child initiated learning. Nursery children also explore sounds and rhymes during Phonics.

Performance

Nursery children have daily opportunities to express themselves through Music. They have access to a wide range of instruments and a C.D. player. They also sing, dance and perform in a Christmas play.

By the end of their time in nursery children will have had opportunities to:

- **Listen with increased attention to sounds**
- Respond to what they have heard, expressing their thoughts and feelings.
- Remember and sing entire songs.
- Sing the pitch of a tone sung by another person ('pitch match').
- Sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) of familiar songs.
- Create their own songs or improvise a song around one they know.
- Play instruments with increasing control to express their feelings and ideas.

Reception

In Reception we build on the children's experiences of **Appraising, Experimentation and Performance** through listening to a wider range of music, teaching the children new and more complex songs, by using musical instruments to explore different sounds and rhythms and by making up dance routines.

Appraising

Reception children are introduced to a wider range of music and begin to learn the names of musicians, song writers and composers. They are encouraged to express how the music makes them feel and what the music is about. The children listen and respond to music in a broader sense such as drawing in response to Vivaldi's Four Seasons. They learn to recognise familiar songs and express likes and dislikes.

Experimentation

Reception children use their experience of a wider range of music to respond more thoughtfully to music through movement, singing or through playing an instrument. They make up their own routines of movement and extend songs and make up their own rhythms.

Performance

Reception children practise their performing skills in the classroom during child initiated learning and through dance in P.E. They take on lead roles in a Christmas play and also in an end of year assembly in which they **perform** songs, dance routines and movements to music.

By the end of their time in Reception children will have had opportunities to:

- Listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Watch and talk about dance and performance art, expressing their feelings and responses.
- Sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching pitch and following melody.
- Explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

By the end of Reception most children will be able to:

- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs; Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others and when appropriate try to move in time with music.