

# St. Oliver Plunkett Primary School



*Love more. Learn more.*

## Music Policy

June 2022

# St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School

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Revised February 2022

### Introduction

St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School is located in the village of Toome, just off the main route between Belfast and Derry. The school was built in 1973. It has 197 pupils including the Nursery Unit.

Music plays a significant role in the life of St Oliver Plunkett's. The staff and children of St Oliver Plunkett's PS attend mass on a regular basis in the local chapel. The whole school also contributes to the singing at special school events e.g. Schools masses, carol services, assemblies. The school choir and traditional group also participates in parish and community events such as the Sacraments, Carols services and visits to homes. Members of the choir and traditional group also represent the school in local singing and music feiseanna, many of the pupils enjoy taking part and are encouraged to take part in these local competitions.

Music: - *'Sound is an ordinary natural phenomenon: music on the other hand, is the result of man's conscious development of sound into art and a science. The basic principles on which all music is based are rhythm, tonality, dynamics and timbre. Some degree of familiarity with these elements and how they are organised will provide anyone who listens to music with a valuable insight into how music "works". (The Book of Music, edited by Gill Rowley)*

### *The Northern Ireland Curriculum states:*

*Musical activity provides children with the opportunity to explore feeling and express themselves in ways that support and go beyond verbal communication. Music provides a context for developing creativity, self-confidence and self-esteem through key activities of making and responding to music. Music helps children to learn to listen, to distinguish between sounds and to respond to pulse and rhythm. These are extremely important elements in children's overall development.*

*All children will have experienced some form of music at home, in the community and for most pre-school setting. These experiences should be built on, with the children continuing to have opportunities to listen and make music. They should be involved in listening, singing, moving rhythmically and expressively to music and making their own their contributions to music-making should be valued.*

*Children should have the opportunity to be involved in musical activities as a whole class, in groups, individually and during play. During play children should be able to choose to explore and create sounds in a music corner. Planned activities should be relevant to the children's interests and experiences and may relate to other learning areas.*

## Aim

St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School aims to develop musical potential of all pupils through giving them the opportunity to engage in musical activities by making and responding to a wide variety of music.

We understand that the aim of music within the curriculum is to enable children to use and to understand music as a means of expression and communication that can bring enjoyment for the rest of their lives.

### **What should we be aiming for in music at St. Oliver Plunkett's Primary School?**

- To provide a love and interest in music
- To encourage self-confidence
- To provide continuity and progression of experiences and skills in music
- To provide a wide range of musical experiences e.g., Rapparees visit, Drumming workshop and Brooke Scullion
- To extend opportunities for musical experiences beyond the school environment
- To encourage parents to provide opportunities for musical experiences

## Through music pupils in St Oliver Plunkett's will have the opportunity to:

- Develop confidence and self-esteem
- Be creative
- Develop skills at a level appropriate to their development in music
- Experience a multi-sensory environment to support all learners
- Share and develop ideas and experiences
- Have the opportunity to explore different types of music
- Experience success

## How is music provided in St Oliver Plunkett's P.S.?

Music is taught throughout the school from Nursery to Year 7.

Each class from Yr1 to Yr7 has access to the Music Express Scheme, it includes a book, CD and a CD-ROM. This serves as a base to aid and enhance teaching, but is not intended to be rigidly adhered to. Teachers should make professional judgements about when to adapt, miss out or add additional materials where this would benefit learning.

Peripatetic violin lessons are provided by Mr Scott Heron from the EA on a weekly basis.

Mr Ian Quarless provides an after schools guitar club for children.

Music is linked and taught through many other areas where children have the opportunities to work as individual or as part of a group through class activities:

- *Dance and movement in PE*
- *Mental maths songs in numeracy*

- RE
- Literacy
- Science eg. Sound production
- Activity and Play based learning

### **Assessment**

Informal assessment monitored by teacher and co-ordinator.

### **Extra-curricular Musical Activities at St Oliver**

#### **Plunkett's**

- Choir
- Traditional group
- Peripatetic violin lessons
- Guitar Afterschools Club P4-7

### **Resources**

- Tuned and untuned percussion instruments including a basket of world instruments
- Music Express collection
- CD player
- Piano
- Variety of hymn and song books

### **ICT resources**

- CD-Rom
- Interactive whiteboards
- Computer/laptops

A variety of ICT resources will be used within music to;

- Consolidate learning
- Provide a variety of stimuli

- Promote enjoyment

## Health and Safety

- Pupils are encouraged to look after instruments
- Pupils instructed how to use instruments in a safe manner
- Pupils/co-ordinator/teacher checks safety of instruments
- Each class will be supervised when brought to the hall for choir

## What is the role of the Music Co-ordinator?

- The music coordinator works directly with the school principal in arranging musical activities within the school.
- The coordinator works with the school principal and other outside agencies to facilitate music in the school; the EA in arranging peripatetic support for violin lessons and Mr Herons annual Christmas and Summer concert mornings, after school guitar lessons with Mr Ian Quarless, music visitors and performing for local community events e.g., Three Islands Nursing Home.
- Planning and developing the learning process through INSET for all members of staff using both internal and external trainers (if available).
- The coordinator will liaise and work closely with the Religion coordinator for various religious events, e.g. start of year Mass, Carol Service, special assemblies, sacraments etc.
- To provide suitable equipment for the provision of music throughout the school including: untuned and tuned percussion, tin-whistles, piano, and access to suitable teaching materials.
- To ensure continuity and progression of music within school.
- To advise staff and assist them as queries arise.

## Role of parent

Parents will play an important role in their child's musical development, encouraging and supporting their child when practising their instrument and ensuring their child has the correct equipment to participate fully in the music lessons.

In addition, parents will be encouraged to support their child's music development by ensuring that they attend all musical activities and events promptly.

Mr Heron has also set up *Google Classroom*, parents can see how their child is progressing on a weekly basis, *Google classroom* also enables communication between Mr Heron and the parents.

Mr Quarless who takes the *Guitar* after school club also requires support from parents to help his pupils get ready for grade exams so they can achieve their full potential.

At St Oliver Plunkett's :

***Music is for everyone!***