Ellison Primary Academy Music

Policy 2025/2026

At Ellison Primary Academy, we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop skills and appreciate a wide variety of musical forms. We teach through musical concepts and embrace the National Curriculum purpose of study which states: "Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon." National Curriculum 2014.

Intent:

- Encourage our children's understanding and enjoyment of music through an active involvement in listening, composing and performing;

- Provide the opportunity for children to develop their individual skills, sharing experience and cooperating with others;

- Help children to develop an awareness of musical traditions and developments from a variety of cultures.

Implementation:

At Ellison Primary Academy, we aim to make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we endeavour to build up the confidence of all children. Children are given the opportunity to discover, explore and develop technical skills through practical music lessons.

Music lessons are timetabled for each class on a regular basis. These involve both whole class and small group activities.

We aim to meet as far as possible the requirements of the National Curriculum. Pupils' understanding of music will be developed through activities which bring together the requirements of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Children are taught to recognise the musical elements of: Duration, dynamics, pitch, tempo, timbre, texture

Children are taught to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces. They are also taught to sing and play in time controlling the sound and pace. They are taught different ways to represent sounds graphically and symbolically.

One of the main methods employed to help children to access and engage with music in school is singing. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing expressively, in tune and with other people. This is achieved through weekly assemblies and a Singing Club which takes place after school for Key Stage 2 pupils. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music from various backgrounds and cultures. Assembly songs are also linked to various annual celebrations and festivals such as Harvest, Christmas, Spring and Easter.

As children get older, they are expected to maintain their concentration for longer, and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children will be enabled to develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. Children are also taught how to use technology as a tool for creating, manipulating and storing sounds e.g. using the Music Toolkit software.

<u>Resources to support implementation:</u>

Interactive whiteboards and computers, Keyboards, Music toolkit software, Tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments, A range of musical resources on CD which includes classical, popular and cultural music, Recorders, A musical programme called Kapow and Various music books including 'Sing Up' resources.

In Year 5, children are provided with the opportunity to participate in a whole class instrumental teaching scheme which is provided by ENTRUST Music Services. The lessons take place once per week for the academic year. These lessons help the children to further develop their skills in making music together and understanding musical notation.

The teaching and learning of music at Ellison Primary Academy also takes place in various extracurricular clubs. This provides further opportunities for children to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of music. Currently, children are offered the opportunity to participate in the following extra-curricular clubs:

Keyboard lessons, Singing Club, Orchestra club, String instrument lessons, Percussion lessons and Wind instrument lessons. These lessons are delivered by peripatetic music teachers and regular teaching staff.

Music Curriculum Planning and Cross Curricular Links

At Ellison Primary Academy we use the new Model Curriculum for Music alongside the Charanga scheme of work for music as the basis for our curriculum planning. The scheme builds upon prior learning. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. The scheme of work links quite closely to the Early Learning goals in the Early Years Foundation Stage and the objectives in the 2014 National Curriculum. However, teachers also have access to other ideas and resources and are expected to adapt any published materials used to meet the needs of their pupils. We also encourage cross-curricular links, ensuring music is taught as a holistic part of the curriculum where possible.

Children are also given the opportunity to develop their understanding of the styles, genres, history and traditions of music.

Impact:

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's work in music by making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons. Video recordings are made of live musical performances for the children to use as self-assessment.

On completion of a piece of work, the teacher will assess the work and give oral or written feedback. Older and more able pupils are encouraged to make judgements about how they can improve their own work. Assessment is used as a tool for helping children to make future progress. Individual class teachers may keep samples of children's work for their own evidence.

Music and Inclusion at Ellison Primary Academy

At Ellison Primary Academy, we teach music to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Music forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make good progress by making sure our lessons are accessible for children with special educational needs and through planning, different ways of minimising or reducing barriers are identified. Lessons and activities will be modified and adapted to offer an equivalent level of challenge to the individual to ensure that they make progress in line with their Individual Education Plans (IEPS). Children are provided with equal opportunities for participating and communicating their own musical ideas. We also provide suitable opportunities for those children who are Gifted and Talented; ensuring that they are given the correct challenge to suit their needs and we encourage them to take extra-curricular Music lessons within school or outside of school. Each half term, a year group will participate in activities aimed at promoting this with specialists from Entrust. We strive to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this.

At Ellison Primary Academy if a child's progress falls significantly outside the expected range, they are provided with an Individual Educational Plan (IEP). This IEP is taken into account in enabling children with special educational needs to access and engage with the music curriculum. Factors such as classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, differentiation are taken into account to enable the child to learn more effectively.

In catering for our gifted and talented pupils we provide them with the challenge and support they need to maximise their potential through teaching and learning activities that specifically cater for their above average musical needs. In this way we offer opportunities for enrichment and extension activities in existing music lessons, and possibly in additional or different lessons.

Musical Events at Ellison Primary Academy

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we endeavour to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. Every year, our Singing club in particular, are invited to events across the local area to perform. For example, our local church often invites us to perform a range of songs on Remembrance Sunday. Likewise, a local Asda supermarket has been known to invite us to perform Christmas songs during the Christmas period. We also attended the Young Voices concert in Manchester for the last 6 years where over 8,000 children gathered to form the world's largest choir, performing to their friends and family in an excellent evening of entertainment. There are also opportunities for those who have musical instrument lessons to perform during particular

assemblies across the year which allow them to showcase their musical abilities. We also have regular informal performances in singing assemblies to celebrate the achievements of the children.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our pupils at Ellison Primary Academy is of great importance. Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed in order to ensure our children's safety:

Instruments will be checked regularly to ensure that they are in good repair and of good quality. All splintered or rusty instruments will be thrown away immediately; Children who are taught to play a wind instrument will have an individually labelled instrument and so there will be no need for sharing; Wind instruments will be sterilized before they are reissued to other pupils; Heavy instruments will be stored at an easily accessible height which will prevent the need for any climbing; The school's piano will only be moved by an adult member of staff.

At Ellison Primary Academy, we enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning and sharing music. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, for example external performances and attending musical events (e.g. Wolstanton High School Christmas Concert), a risk assessment will be carried out prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

The Role of the Music Subject Leader

- The Music Subject Leader will take responsibility for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of music teaching in school.

- The Music Subject Leader will support colleagues where needed in their teaching and provide appropriate staff development training where necessary. The Music Subject Leader will also keep staff up-dated with examples of musical activities and useful teaching resources.

- The Music Subject Leader will ensure that the Scheme of Work is in use throughout the year groups, and will help with implementing this.

- The Music Subject Leader will keep samples of children's work in a portfolio, which will be used to demonstrate the level of achievement in music in school.

- *The Music Subject Leader will keep informed about current developments in Music, through attending various training sessions and accessing a range of resources. This will enable the Music Subject Leader to provide a strategic lead and direction for this subject in the school.*

- *The Music Subject leader will lead the school choir and organise both internal and external performances for the school's choir.*

- *The Music Subject Leader, along with class teachers, will maintain the musical instruments.*

- *The Music Subject Leader will liaise with the Music Service and peripatetic music teachers.*

- *The Music Subject leader will organise termly musical assemblies/concerts.*

- *The Music Subject Leader will ensure that children are exposed to external musical performances and will take responsibility for organising these trips.*

    - *The Music Subject Leader will carry out any necessary risks assessments for music related trips.*