QRA
Music Policy

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. INSPIRE.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original	Sept 2023
2	Rebranded & reviewed	July 2024
3	Adopted by QRA on transfer to HCAT	August 2025

QRA Music Policy

Intent

Our approach to the Music curriculum ensures that it is taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour. Underpinned by the accelerated learning approach to teaching and learning, the HCAT progressive curriculum document supports the progression of substantive content and concepts, which have been carefully selected and well-sequenced, so a child should know more and revisit knowledge and concepts to ensure depth and rigour over time. The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills through which the children are helped to grow and develop to succeed in 21st century Britain. This progressive curriculum allows a purposeful way of teaching and learning, enabling us to provide a more meaningful and sequential approach to the schema for Music.

Our music curriculum set out pathways for progression that enables pupils to develop their musical knowledge. As a result, the progress of children in music requires them to develop musically across 3 pillars that interrelate in musicianship: 'Technical' development for pupils to translate their intentions successfully into sound. 'Constructive' development for pupils to understand how musical components come together both analytically and in the creative process. 'Expressive' development to allow children to focus on the more indefinable aspects of music: quality, meaning and creativity.

At QRA, we have segmented these pillars further to scaffold and support pupil's development in music into 6 key areas:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Musicianship
- Performing
- Musical History

Our musical curriculum content supports pupils in developing these 3 essential pillars, which in turn support the activities of performing, composing and listening. As a result, the Music curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, imaginative and ambitious and meets the needs of individual learners by can easily be adapted for pupils with additional needs.

Implementation

At QRA, lessons of music will be taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour in concepts and context. The Music curriculum is rich and varied and provides our pupils with the skills required for life in the 21st Century.

The Accelerated Learning Cycle, based on the work of Alastair Smith, is applied in all lessons. It stems from the idea of a supportive and challenging learning environment. The cycle has active engagement through multi-sensory learning, encourages the demonstrating understanding of learning in a variety of ways and the consolidation of knowing.

Our curriculum organisers support the planning and delivery of lessons to ensure children develop a deep, sequential understanding of specific knowledge and are able to apply these in a range of situations.

A gather, skills, apply approach to planning and delivery of lessons is taken across school to ensure children develop a deep understanding of specific skills and are able to apply these in a range of situations.

Impact

Formative assessment is ongoing throughout each lesson. It judges progress and enables teachers to make flexible adaptions to their planned teaching.

Through this regular ongoing assessment, tasks are matched to the ability of each child through scaffolds, adult support and providing a level of challenge that is stimulating for pupils and questioning skills.

Alongside formative assessment, Arbor is used as a summative assessment to assess foundation subjects. Alongside the analysis of data from Arbor, the curriculum document for music is regularly highlighted to identify any gaps or misconceptions to be addressed. This allows children to acquire complex skills that depends on the fundamentals of their prior knowledge in a well-designed curriculum sequence.

Adaptations

At QRA our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those children with SEND. Curriculum designers and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve and the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for SEND pupils.

Every pupil is different and so what works for each pupil varies. Pupil's individual needs are considered and adaptations are planned to ensure the success of pupils in all subjects.

The way that our curriculum is designed ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced in a coherent way to enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. Too much information at once can be a barrier to learning which is one of the reason why we have chosen half termly curriculum drivers.

Where pupils are identified with having complex needs it may be appropriate to provide a personalised curriculum which will be based on individual needs and will retain ambition for the pupil.

Where working memory is an issue for pupils, including those with SEND, we look to reduce extraneous load as much as possible as well as identifying key information when teaching. This helps pupils to pay attention to the content which they are expected to learn.

Adaptations to support individual pupils will be recorded on personal school support plans.

At QRA we do not assume that pupils with SEND learn content better through practical work as this can cause distraction and cognitive overload rather than increase clarity or accessibility. The curriculum is not narrowed for any pupils. Knowledge is taught and then pupils are provided with opportunities for scientific enquiry to test and investigate the knowledge taught. Pupils specific needs determine the types of adaptations which are required. These adaptations are in how the subject is taught rather than the content pupils are expected to learn. Where appropriate, learning will be chunked into smaller steps and pre learning and consolidation time in planned in to support need. Time is also planned to ensure pupils with SEND are pre taught vocabulary to support their understanding. Adaptations may include supporting pupils to pay attention to key aspects as well as reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory.

Key responsibilities for Music

All staff will:

- Ensure that they are up to date with the school policy and curriculum requirements regarding Music.
- Attend and engage in professional development training around Music provision, including individual and whole staff training/inset, where appropriate.
- Attend staff meetings to be introduced to any new areas of work and review the effectiveness of the approaches used.

- Report back to Music Lead on any areas they feel are not covered or inadequately provided for in the schools Music provision.
- Tailor their lessons to suit all pupils in their class, across the whole range of abilities, including those pupils with special educational needs.
- Ask for support in this from SEND coordinator or the Music Lead, should they need it.

Subject Lead:

- Review the policy on a yearly basis.
- Keep staff up to date on any policy changes.
- Ensure that all staff re able to access and deliver the curriculum.
- Identify training needs and arrange or deliver said training.