

Catshill Federation Subject Rationale

Music at Catshill Federation	Why is this subject important?	How is Music organised?
<p>Catshill Federation is proud that both schools are Music Mark Schools, demonstrating our commitment to providing a high-quality, inclusive, and engaging music education for all pupils. Our curriculum is built on the belief that “Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity” (National Curriculum, 2014). Our central purpose is to “allow pupils to make more music, think more musically, and consequently, become more musical” (Ofsted, 2021).</p> <p>We aim to nurture musicianship within a safe and supportive environment where pupils are encouraged to explore, create, and take creative risks. Music lessons develop reflective, resilient, and independent learners who use creativity as a means of personal expression and growth.</p>	<p>Music education from ages 3 to 13 supports children’s overall development, fostering creativity, self-expression, confidence, imagination, and discipline. It develops listening, critical thinking, and social skills through collaboration in performances and compositions.</p> <p>The curriculum exposes pupils to diverse musical styles and cultures, promoting cultural awareness and understanding of music’s role across time and place. Music also builds community, teamwork, and inclusivity, ensuring all pupils can engage meaningfully. Ultimately, it nurtures a lifelong love of music and equips pupils with the skills and confidence to continue their musical journey.</p>	<p>Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Framework, tailored to children’s interests. KS1 lessons use the Charanga scheme, based on the National and Model Music Curricula, to build foundational skills. Year 3 and 4 pupils continue with Charanga and take part in the FAME Project, learning ukulele.</p> <p>At middle school, pupils receive one-hour weekly lessons from a music specialist. KS2 develop vocal confidence, rhythm, notation, music technology, performance, and world music skills. KS3 pupils deepen theory and musicianship, including scales, chords, rhythms, notation, improvisation, composition, musical devices, music technology, and careers.</p> <p>The curriculum is enriched by extra-curricular clubs, instrumental lessons, and live performance opportunities.</p>
How are other subjects linked?	How is the curriculum adapted?	How is progress measured?
<p>Music supports learning across the curriculum: it develops language and communication (English), explores rhythm, patterns, and fractions (Maths), and connects to history, geography, SEMH through cultural, historical, psychological, and functional context. It enhances PE and Art through movement and creative expression, and links to Science via sound and acoustics. These connections enrich learning and provide a holistic educational experience.</p>	<p>The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all learners. Tasks are differentiated for varying ability levels, and pupils are grouped flexibly to encourage peer support and targeted learning. Teaching incorporates multiple modalities - auditory, visual, and kinesthetic - supported with step-by-step guidance, visual aids, and hands-on demonstrations.</p> <p>Pupils are given choice and autonomy in selecting pieces and composition styles to foster creativity and ownership of their learning. Technology, including BandLab and Charanga, is used to support composition, collaboration, experimentation, and accessibility for all learners.</p>	<p>First School (CFSN): The main measure of impact is pupils’ confidence and engagement across listening, composing, performing, and playing. Music is assessed formatively through feedback during lessons.</p> <p>Middle School (CMS): Assessment is primarily formative, supported by summative evaluations. Pupils are tracked against yearly milestone areas - singing, listening, composing, performing, and notation - marking progress as they go. They also follow specific criteria for unit compositions and performances to ensure clear standards and measurable outcomes.</p>