Curriculum Intent - Music

At Apley Wood Primary Academy, we believe that every child is a natural musician. Our high-quality Music curriculum is designed to be fun, inclusive, and engaging, rooted in our school motto: *"Feed the mind, free the imagination."* We view music as a powerful, magical force that enriches every aspect of life, regardless of background or ability.

Our curriculum ensures that all children have the opportunity to perform, compose, evaluate, and experience a wide range of musical styles. It is delivered through a variety of high-quality resources, including Sing Up, BBC Ten Pieces, bespoke recorder and ukulele lessons, and support from the Telford and Wrekin Music Hub—all aligned with the latest National Curriculum guidance.

Each year group explores a series of units covering diverse genres, songs, and instrumental skills. These units encourage children to reflect on the social, moral, cultural, and spiritual dimensions of music and its broader impact. Progression is guided by our school's progression document, with flexibility to ensure pupils move forward only when they are secure in their understanding.

A key feature of our curriculum is overlearning, with repeated exposure to musical vocabulary and genres across year groups to deepen understanding and retention.

Curriculum Implementation – Music

At Apley, we aim to inspire a love of music through dynamic and adaptive teaching. Weekly lessons incorporate a blend of resources—Sing Up, BBC Ten Pieces, bespoke instrumental lessons, and the Telford and Wrekin Music Hub—to deliver both substantive (factual) and disciplinary (skills-based) knowledge.

From Years 1 to 5, pupils study 4–6 units annually, each focusing on different genres, instruments, and musical elements. Each unit begins with a clear introduction to the key knowledge and skills, which are then developed through practical activities and assessed through final performances or creative tasks.

Lessons include:

- Listening, singing, performing, composing, improvising, and evaluating
- Adaptive strategies such as modelling, scaffolding, and formative assessment
- Focused exploration of songs, genres, and technical skills (e.g., reading music, playing instruments)

In Year 6, pupils continue to develop their musical skills through the Toot instrument, supported by the Music Hub, preparing them for secondary music education.

To support retention, each year group completes a RAG-rated vocabulary quiz at the start and end of each topic.

In EYFS, music is embedded across all areas of learning, with daily opportunities for singing, movement, and musical exploration during carpet time, transitions, and continuous provision.

Weekly singing assemblies reinforce learning and provide performance opportunities. Each year group also participates in key stage performances (e.g., KS1 Nativity, KS2 Easter, Year 6 Leavers' Play), which are embedded into the curriculum and Year 3 take part in a national event run by the Royal Opera House in London.

Extra-curricular opportunities such as the Apley Wood Choir, Young Voices, and residential trips enrich pupils' cultural capital and provide real-world musical experiences. Individual and small group tuition in instruments like guitar and keyboard is also available through external providers.

Curriculum Impact – Music

Assessment in Music is ongoing and formative, with teachers using adaptive strategies and verbal feedback to guide learning. Where appropriate, written feedback, extension tasks, and self-assessment are used to help pupils reflect and identify next steps.

Each unit has clear learning outcomes, and teachers update assessment records termly. Vocabulary understanding is tracked through RAG-rated quizzes in Years 1–6, and key performances are recorded on Seesaw to support assessment and progression tracking.

These assessments inform future planning and ensure that all pupils are supported to make progress in their musical knowledge and skills. Our goal is for pupils to confidently recall and build upon prior learning, deepening their understanding and preparing them for the next stage of their musical journey.