

Catch Up Statement for Music

5th January 2022

At TMAT, we follow a common core curriculum which develops key skills in the areas of composition, singing, instrumental performance and listening. All three schools operate slightly differently as the level of musical expertise and cohorts of children vary across the sites. However, we all strongly believe as a team that music should be embedded in the culture of the school, and that all pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced musical education. We deliver the music curriculum through a practical approach as well as teaching the inter-related dimensions of music. All pupils are exposed to a wide range of music from a variety of different cultures, time periods and styles, and we endeavour to create contextual links between music and children's learning in other subjects.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on music education; not just through the partial school closures, but in the limitations that were placed on the activities that could safely be carried out in lessons. Opportunities for singing and performing have been severely limited over the last two years, as have opportunities to experience live music. In order to enable children to make the vital links between the music theory and live performance and to apply their theoretical knowledge to practical music making, our recovery curriculum focuses on revisiting fundamental skills in singing and performance, as well as composition and listening, so that they can begin to rebuild the links between the different aspects of music.

Opportunities for performance are frequent within lessons, and children are invited to evaluate their own and others' performances. We use visual aids in the classroom to provide children with graphic representation of musical concepts which they can then utilise in their compositions and performances. Questioning and class discussion are used to identify gaps in knowledge, develop understanding and to address misconceptions, and key language and terminology is revisited every lesson to maximise knowledge retention.