

# Aston Rowant C†E Primary School

## WHAT MUSIC LOOKS LIKE AT ASTON ROWANT

**Growing together, rooted in God, having fullness of life.**

**Colossians 2:1-7**



*Vision: Aston Rowant community will be courageous life-long learners, who are rooted in God, living our Christian values and enjoying life in all its fullness.*

*Mission: Growing together and inspiring one another through our Christian values and a broad enriched curriculum.*

G	GRATITUDE
R	RESILIENCE
O	OUTREACH
W	WONDER
T	TRUST
H	HARMONY

**Grateful** Our attitude to learning shows that we appreciate the breadth of opportunities that we have to learn inside and outside of the classroom with our resources and surroundings.

**Resilient** We cultivate a growth mindset from the perspective of building courage, encourage failure by modelling it and showing how to reframe events in a positive light, so children are willing to try new things whilst embracing failure and the opportunities it brings. Let the children learn to have control over their own actions, including trying again if they don't succeed.

**Outreach** Children will leave Aston Rowant C†E Primary School with an enthusiasm and thirst for learning that continues for the next stage of education and enables the children to live life to its fullness.

**Wonder** We generate curiosity and wonder about what we teach and allow it to take hold into something that becomes a passion for lifelong learning for all of our children. We openly involve them in their learning by meeting them where they are and then showing them where they can go exploring their interests, expanding upon their ideas, and engaging them in meaningful dialogue which encourages them to fully engage with owning and developing their own learning.

**Trust** We will develop our children into independent learners to empower them to take control of their own learning – both inside the classroom. Teachers trust that our pedagogical approach cultivates independent habits of mind in the children we teach and the children themselves trust their foundation and values to explore the truths of the world for themselves.

**Harmonious** The whole school team will grow together, sharing our knowledge, understanding and experience. We will question, encourage and support one another on our learning journey.

# RATIONALE

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Aston Rowant C+E Primary School, we endeavour to 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 will be encouraged to develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, appraise and perform with confidence.

The teaching of music is arranged in different elements including music appreciation, performing, composing and appraising. As part of their class music lessons, children will have the opportunity to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. They will learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and to progress to the next level of musical excellence. In addition, they will understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

At Aston Rowant C+E Primary School, every child has the opportunity to learn a range of instruments. They will receive tuition from specialist teachers and have opportunities to perform to their parents and peers throughout the school year. In addition, all pupils sing every week in Key Stage and whole school Singing assemblies. Children in key stage 2 have the opportunity to be part of a choir, performing at local events throughout the year.

To develop focused tuition in music, at Aston Rowant C+E Primary School, pupils are provided with the opportunity to learn a wide range of instruments individually or in small groups, with peripatetic teachers.

Music is an integral part of daily life at Aston Rowant C+E Primary School, within the classroom and beyond. Its positive effects upon the well-being of pupils is both recognised and celebrated.

We are delighted that Oxfordshire County Music Service granted us Music Mark School status. They have recognised the value that we place on music and celebrated all the hard work of the staff team to ensure that our pupils are able to access a high-quality, diverse and inclusive music education stating, *'Your dedication to delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated.'*

# GRATITUDE



Music at our school fosters Gratitude by enabling pupils to appreciate the rich range of musical opportunities available to them, both within school and beyond. Through listening, performing and composing, pupils develop an understanding of music as a universal language and a valued part of human culture.

Pupils experience music from a wide range of genres, traditions and historical periods, helping them appreciate the creativity and contributions of musicians across time and cultures. They are encouraged to reflect on the skill, effort and collaboration involved in musical performance and composition.

All pupils are given opportunities to learn instruments, sing regularly and perform to audiences, developing an appreciation for the resources, expertise and opportunities they are provided with. Pupils show gratitude through positive attitudes, commitment to practice and respectful listening during performances.

As a result, pupils value music as an important part of school life and recognise the joy, wellbeing and sense of achievement it brings. Music contributes strongly to pupils' personal development by fostering appreciation, thankfulness and respect for the creative arts.

We were really fortunate to have Garsington Opera come into to school to run a workshop with Owl Class and also provide the children with the opportunity to audition for fully-funded places to join the Garsington Opera Youth Company. Each year a number of our children are successful and perform with the Garsington Opera Adult Company as well as professional opera singers. Garsington Opera also run full day music and drama workshops for KS2 before we get to watch an interactive performances of Eugene Onegin, The Barber of Saville, Midsummer Night Dream at the opera house on the Wormsley Estate near Ibstone.

# RESILIENCE



Music develops Resilience by encouraging pupils to persevere, practise and improve through sustained effort. Learning to sing, play instruments and compose requires focus, repetition and the confidence to make mistakes and try again.

Pupils are supported to develop a growth mindset through high expectations and clear progression. They experiment with sounds, create compositions and perform individually and collaboratively, learning that improvement comes through practice and reflection. Trial and error are viewed positively as part of the creative process.

Pupils are regularly challenged to refine their musical responses, listen carefully and respond accurately. Over time, they build confidence in tackling more complex rhythms, notation and performance contexts.

As a result, pupils demonstrate determination, self-belief and perseverance. Music supports pupils' personal development by helping them become resilient learners who are willing to take risks, learn from mistakes and strive for excellence.

# OUTREACH



We reach out to our local community by putting on school plays, concerts and services in church. KS1 performed A Big Green Adventure and KS2 have put on outdoor productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream and Wind in the Willows.

In turn the community supports us and we regularly have workshops that have been kindly provided by the parents and staff. Chloe Rooke, Assistant Conductor at the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, visited school to talk about her life as an internationally acclaimed conductor and to give a workshop for EYFS/KS1 followed by KS2.

Music plays a significant role in supporting Outreach by connecting pupils with the wider community through shared musical experiences. Pupils regularly perform in school productions, concerts and church services, strengthening links between the school, families and the local community.

The curriculum is enriched through visits, workshops and visiting musicians, including opportunities provided by parents, staff and external organisations. Pupils engage with professional musicians and ensembles, broadening their understanding of musical pathways and careers.

Opportunities such as choir performances, class recitals and whole-school music events allow pupils to share their learning confidently and contribute positively to community life. Music outreach is reciprocal, with pupils learning from others while also giving something back through performance and participation.

As a result, pupils develop confidence, pride and a sense of belonging. Music contributes to pupils' personal development by encouraging engagement, aspiration and meaningful connection beyond the classroom.

Oxfordshire Music service worked with us to achieve the Music Mark award.

# WONDER



Music nurtures Wonder by sparking curiosity, creativity and emotional engagement. Pupils are encouraged to explore how music is created, how sounds are made and how music communicates meaning and feeling.

Through listening, questioning and experimentation, pupils develop fascination with musical elements such as rhythm, pitch, dynamics, timbre and texture. Music lessons are engaging and practical, allowing pupils to explore ideas, discover patterns and respond creatively.

Pupils demonstrate Wonder through enthusiasm, curiosity and thoughtful questioning. Music often inspires pupils to explore further, whether through independent listening, practising instruments or discussing music beyond the classroom.

As a result, pupils develop a strong enjoyment of music and a lasting curiosity about the arts. Music supports pupils' personal development by fostering imagination, creativity and a love of learning.

# TRUST



Music supports the value of Trust by encouraging pupils to develop confidence in themselves and in the learning process. Pupils are supported to take risks, perform in front of others and trust that effort and practice will lead to improvement.

Pupils learn to trust their musical judgement through composition, improvisation and performance. They are encouraged to reflect on feedback, refine their work and trust their growing skills. Teachers model trust through high expectations, clear progression and supportive feedback.

Performances in assemblies, church services and concerts further develop pupils' confidence and self-belief. Pupils learn to trust one another when performing together, listening carefully and responding as part of an ensemble.

As a result, pupils become confident, independent musicians who are willing to challenge themselves. Music contributes strongly to pupils' personal development by fostering courage, self-trust and collaboration.

# HARMONIOUS

Music promotes Harmony through collaboration, shared creativity and collective performance. Pupils regularly work together to sing, compose and perform, learning the importance of cooperation, listening and mutual respect.

Ensemble work, group compositions and whole-school music events encourage pupils to value each other's contributions and work towards shared outcomes. Music enrichment activities and workshops further strengthen teamwork across classes and year groups.

Pupils learn how different musical parts work together to create a whole, reinforcing the importance of balance, cooperation and collective responsibility. Collaborative music-making fosters positive relationships and a strong sense of community.

As a result, pupils demonstrate effective teamwork, respectful communication and shared enjoyment. Music makes a valuable contribution to pupils' personal development by fostering harmony, belonging and collective achievement.