



**Helping our children listen deeply, perform confidently and create music that makes the world a better place.**

At Menston Primary School, our music curriculum develops musical confidence, creativity and curiosity. Rooted in our vision – *Making the world a better place* – children learn to listen with discernment, perform with expression and compose with imagination, experiencing music from a wide range of cultures, times and traditions.

### **Our Vision**

We provide an ambitious, inclusive and well-sequenced curriculum that enables every child to thrive musically. Knowledge and skills build progressively from listening and singing to playing, composing, improvising and notating, meeting the National Curriculum aims for performing, listening, reviewing, evaluating, using voices and instruments, and understanding how music is created and communicated.

Our approach places an emphasis on coherent intent, strong implementation and progression for all learners, including pupils with SEND and those who are disadvantaged.

### **What Music Looks Like at Menston**

Music is taught weekly from EYFS to Year 6 through a thematic, spiral curriculum that links with wider topics and revisits core ideas with increasing depth. Children encounter units such as *Celebration Music, Pulse & Rhythm, Traditional instruments and improvisation (India), Adapting and transposing motifs (Romans), Samba & Carnival, Blues, Theme & Variations, Film Music* and a *Leavers' Song* project in Year 6. Whole-class instrumental learning (e.g., brass) and regular singing underpin progression in performance, notation and ensemble skills.

We promote a love of music by ensuring every year group performs publicly at least once each year (e.g. class assemblies, seasonal concerts, productions), giving pupils authentic, confidence-building experiences as developing musicians. Singing takes place each week in key stage assemblies and composers from all cultures and time frames are celebrated through our dedicated focus on a composer of the month.

### **Developing Substantive Knowledge**

Substantive musical knowledge includes understanding the inter-related dimensions of music such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. It also encompasses the appropriate notations used to represent them; knowledge of musical traditions, genres and influential composers and performers across different periods and cultures; and the technical understanding needed to use the voice and instruments effectively, as well as how music is organised and produced. This knowledge is taught and revisited from EYFS to Year 6 so that pupils meet national expectations for performing, composing, listening, notating and developing an understanding of the history of music.

### **Developing Disciplinary Knowledge**

Disciplinary knowledge is about how pupils think and work like musicians; listening analytically, rehearsing with purpose and making musical choices about how a piece should sound, while also learning to improvise, compose within structures, read and write notation, and evaluate their own work and the work of others. This knowledge is applied in real musical contexts through performing – both solo and as part of an ensemble – using voices and instruments, and through composing and improvising with techniques such as pentatonic melodies, ostinato, motif development and remixing. As pupils move through KS2, increasingly sophisticated notation is used, progressing from graphic symbols to staff notation.



### Linked to Our Curriculum Drivers

- **Equality, diversity and tolerance:** Pupils explore diverse musical cultures (e.g., Indian classical forms, West African call-and-response, Samba, Blues), challenging stereotypes and valuing different traditions.
- **Creativity and critical thinking:** Children invent motifs, arrange parts, improvise and refine compositions, explaining choices using secure musical vocabulary.
- **Global citizens:** Through thematic links (e.g., rainforests, rivers, festivals), pupils see how music reflects peoples, places and times, and how it builds community.
- **Future-thinking:** We connect music with technology (looping/remix, film music, recording/notation apps) and introduce creative-industry roles (composer, sound designer, producer).
- **Wellbeing:** Regular singing, ensemble music-making and performance nurture confidence, collaboration and emotional expression, supporting whole-school wellbeing priorities.

At Menston Primary School, pupils have the opportunity to learn a wide range of instruments through our peripatetic music provision, with specialist teachers offering lessons in piano, strings, guitar, woodwind and brass. These lessons enable children to develop their musicianship beyond the classroom and to pursue individual musical interests. We also offer a weekly school band and choir, providing inclusive ensemble experiences that strengthen confidence and performance skills. Beyond school, pupils regularly take part in musical events within the community, including singing at local venues and during special visits, helping them to understand the role of music in bringing people together and enriching the wider world.



### What Our Children Will Leave Knowing

By the end of Year 6, our pupils can:

- Perform with accuracy, expression and control – singing in parts and playing in ensembles – responding to a conductor and to the ensemble around them;
- Listen with attention to detail, identifying key features, instruments and structures across styles, periods and cultures;
- Compose and improvise for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music, developing and varying motifs, textures and structures;
- Use and understand notation (graphic and staff) to record and communicate musical ideas;
- Talk about music with secure vocabulary and evaluate performances thoughtfully;
- Celebrate music as part of community life, with the confidence to progress to the next stage of musical excellence.

Through these experiences, pupils leave Menston Primary as confident, reflective and creative young musicians, ready to contribute positively to the world through the joy and discipline of music.