



# The Walsh Schools Music Development Plan

*"Music is the universal language of mankind."* – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## 1. Curriculum Intent

At The Walsh Schools, we believe that music is not a luxury but a necessity. We develop musical aspirations through active participation, creativity, and performance which enables our pupils to develop confidence, collaboration, and a lifelong appreciation for music. Our aim is to provide an inclusive, engaging, and high-quality music education for every child with our Christian values of peace, fellowship, resilience and love encompassed throughout. At the Walsh Schools, we ensure that all children have the opportunity to play a musical instrument, develop their abilities to compose music, evolve their voices as singers, respond reflectively to a range diverse and global musical genres and ultimately flourish in their love for music.

## 2. Curriculum Implementation and Impact

The implementation and impact of our music curriculum is demonstrated in the following ways:

- At the Walsh Schools we follow the Surrey recommended scheme Kapow. Kapow encourages children to become confident performers, composers, and listeners by teaching essential musical skills such as, singing and playing instruments, whilst also fostering transferable life skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. The Kapow curriculum also introduces children to diverse music from around the world, such as North American 'Jazz' in Year 3, 'Samba' in Year Four and South African 'Shosholozza' in Year Five. This broadens their cultural awareness and respect for different traditions. Kapow is taught weekly throughout our school for 40 minutes.
- Inclusivity is an essential element of the curriculum. At the Walsh Schools we ensure that all children, regardless of ability or confidence, can access every lesson. This is demonstrated in a number of different ways: There are 'adaptive teaching' tasks and instruments that teachers can tailor to suit their class, in every lesson scaffolding and breaking musical elements into smaller steps is encouraged, having a variety of sensory modes in lessons such as listening, singing, playing instruments, body percussion and whole-body actions. Through a 'spiral mode' every lesson also demonstrates musical skills and concepts that are revisited over time with increasing clarity and depth.
- Half termly, Class teachers can measure impact through end of unit assessments provided by Kapow alongside performances or recordings of the unit. The subject leader also

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conducts impact through termly staff and pupil surveys, lesson observations, and tracking of termly assessments.

- Year Six do not use Kapow as their musical curriculum is delivered fortnightly by specialist teachers at Ash Manor Secondary School. Each session is a total of 90 minutes, which compensates for reduced frequency, and units covered during these sessions ensure Primary Curriculum coverage and progression with termly assessment feedback given to the Year Six class teachers. These fortnightly and valuable sessions not only allow our learners the opportunity to experience lessons in a secondary school setting but enable them a chance to develop their musical skills with differing instruments and technology.
- At The Walsh Schools we are also fortunate to be following the Surrey Arts Tuning Up Programme. One term each, and following the National Curriculum, an experienced Surrey Arts music teacher teaches Years Three, Four and Five how to play the Ukulele. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to develop all musical skills and is enjoyed by our parents with an 'End of Term Concert'.
- The Surrey Arts Tuning Up Programme is also used in Year Two where our children learn how to play the recorder. This is a two-term program of study with an exciting performance to the school and parents at the end of the Spring Term.
- Alongside this, a Surrey Arts music specialist visits our school weekly offering keyboard lessons.
- Our children actively participate in the wider community with performances such as Nativity (at the Infant School), Christmas production (all year groups at the Junior School) Year Six end of year production and Christmas and Easter celebrations at St Pauls church.
- As often as possible, we actively seek opportunities to invite professional musicians and performers to our school to deliver workshops and demonstrations, enriching our children's understanding of different musical practices.
- Once a week all children partake in a singing assembly. This is an opportunity for children to develop their love for singing and appreciate a wide range of musical artists and genres. This can also be seen through the introduction of our 'Artist of Month.' The artists selected allow children the opportunity to explore varying themes and historical contexts to deepen their respect and understanding.
- Children can also enrich their musical interests through our school choirs and monthly 'Artist of Month' club where we enjoy singing, listening and discussing the artist for that month.