**HIGH LITTLETON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MUSIC CURRICULUM**

**Curriculum Intent**

Learning is a change to long-term memory. To this end, our aim is to ensure that our children experience a wide breadth of study and will have committed to their long-term memory an ambitious body of procedural and semantic knowledge (knowledge and skills).

At High Littleton Church of England Primary School, we believe that music is a powerful and unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together feeling and intellect, enabling personal expression, reflection and emotional development. Music is an integral part of culture, past and present, and helps pupils understand the importance of the development of musical styles throughout history.

**Breadth of Study**

**Key Stage 1**

Children will be taught to:

* use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
* play tuned and untuned instruments musically
* listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
* experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

**Key Stage 2**

Children will be taught to:

* play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
* improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
* listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
* use and understand staff and other musical notations
* appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
* develop an understanding of the history of music.

Our curriculum distinguishes between subject topics and *threshold concepts* which tie together the subject topics into meaningful *schema*. The same concepts are explored in a wide breadth of topics. Our *forwards and backwards engineering* of the curriculum allows children to return to the same concepts over and over again, gradually building their understanding of them.

**Threshold Concepts**

We want our children 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
* 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 have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
* 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.

**Milestones**

These are the goals that the children should reach to show that they are meeting the expectations of our curriculum. At High Littleton Primary School, we help pupils progress in music by:

* carefully sequencing the knowledge that they need to understand music concepts in our long term plans
* by providing the vocabulary that they need to articulate their understanding of music
* by providing the children with *deliberate practice* activities that will help them to make progress towards the milestones and remember what they have learnt

**Assessment**

We assess the outcomes for music through our POP tasks which are built into our planning to help us assess how well and how deeply pupils know and understand what we have taught and what the children have learnt.