

Spiritual development in Music

Through studying music, students will explore how music has the power to influence and change behaviours, opinions and actions. The lessons are carefully designed to allow students the opportunity to be creative and express their ideas in response to a range of stimuli, through composing and performing music. Students are also encouraged to explore music through the experience and emotion of listening to music. They are encouraged to be empathetic to the many different music styles and cultures studied and explored within the music curriculum.

Moral development in Music

Students are encouraged to show empathy and understanding of the different music styles studied. The Music schemes of learning allow students to identify and explore the formation and history, looking at some of the moral issues hidden within the different music styles. For example, when studying The Blues, students explore how this style of music was formed as a way of African American slaves expressing their feelings during the American Slave Trade. Another musical style that is studied that has negative connotations associated to the style is Reggae music. The students will briefly study the history of Jamaica in 1960s and through music explore how the political oppression in this country/period was having an effect on its residents as expressed regularly in Reggae songs. Students engage in critical discussions of key musical works, lyrics and performances.

Social development in Music

Students, whilst learning the history of a musical style, also look at how music is appreciated in different ways and in different settings. For example, they explore how African Drumming was originally used as a tool of communication between tribes, how Rock 'n' Roll music was a music style aimed at teenagers following the baby boom in America after WWII and how music within films is used to create different feelings and emotions. Students work in a number of different social settings within music and are encouraged to use correct musical vocabulary within their work or discussions. They will at times work by themselves, building their independence, resilience and critical understanding through music listening, performance and composition. Students will work collaboratively with other students in the class to work in pairs or small groups developing their performance and compositional skills, where they will take responsibility for their own learning outcomes and progress. At times students will perform together as a whole class to develop their ensemble performance skills. The students are encouraged to use each other as a learning tool and develop their creative music skills.

Cultural development in Music

The resources and musical examples used across both Key Stages for our students encourage a respect and deep appreciation for cultures around the world that have contributed to the development of our current popular musical styles. This philosophy also underpins our selection of music for performance events whether they are informal or formal occasions. We encourage students to create their own music and to incorporate different musical influences in their own composition, particularly at KS4. We study a range of musical styles from around the world including, African Drumming, Chinese Music, Reggae and many other musical styles to enrich the cultural experiences of our students.