



St Dennis Primary Academy – Music



“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” – Plato

At St Dennis we encourage this aspect of the curriculum through the experience and emotion of listening and responding to music, composition and performance. We encourage our pupils to express their feelings verbally when responding to a piece of music. Where pupils are sensitive about expressing their feelings, we support them appropriately so that they have the confidence to do so. Spiritual skills are further developed by encouraging children to be inspired and creative, such as in the Year 1 ‘Your imagination’ unit.

Children engage in group tasks to encourage a sense of unity and collaboration, enabling them to be aware of their own individual abilities and strengths. We also encourage the skills of independence and resilience. Where they are required to express their feelings, students are encouraged to do this sensitively with an awareness of the needs of others. Our choirs, the school band and guitar group all require children to contribute to a joint performance, as part of a team.



We encourage our children at St Dennis to engage in critical discussions of musical performances both from other students and visiting artists. Where there is a specific cultural or social reference that is explicit in a piece of music, we encourage our children to reflect upon this. Where children have presented their own work, we ensure fair and objective assessment and evaluation of their composition. Improving on performances requires self-discipline, resilience and commitment as shown by choir members during our rehearsals for concerts and St Austell Music Festival.

By listening to a wide range of styles and genres in music, we encourage respect and a deep appreciation of cultures around the world. This philosophy also underpins our selection of music for assemblies and performances. We encourage children to create their own music, incorporating different musical influences in their own compositions, such as in Year 3 where they study Reggae. We use a wide variety of instruments from around the world including Indonesian Gamelan, African Djemba drums and Latin American Samba to enrich our cultural experiences.