Music Subject Leader Planning Statement:

As a Rights Respecting School, we are aware that under the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 29 (goals of education)
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)
Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon. (The National Curriculum)

Our **intent** for music education in our school

Our music curriculum aims to provide all pupils with a high quality music education which engages and inspires children to develop a life-long love of music, increases their self-confidence, creativity, and imagination, and provides opportunities for self-expression and a sense of personal achievement . We offer opportunities for children to develop their talents in all aspects of music including composition, singing and appreciation.

"Where words fail, music speaks." Hans Christian Andersen
"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to stay silent." Victor Hugo

At Rickmansworth Park we believe that music plays an integral role in helping children to feel part of a community, therefore we provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music both in class and to an audience. Through assemblies and key stage performances, children showcase their talent and their understanding of performing with awareness of others. Lessons enable children to develop their skills, appreciate a wide variety of music and begin to appraise a range of musical genres. Our music curriculum aims to develop pupils who:

- Enjoy and have an appreciation for music.
- Listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, cultures, styles and traditions.
- Can sing and use their voices to create different effects.
- Create and compose music, both on their own and with others.
- Use a range of musical language.
- Make judgements and express personal preferences about the quality and style of music.
- Take part in performances with an awareness of audience.

The way we **implement** music education in our school

Within the EYFS setting, music is an integral part of children's learning journey. Rhyme and rhythm are utilised throughout the learning of phonics, handwriting and mathematics. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes and develop skills for performing together. Singing and music making opportunities are used frequently to embed learning, develop musical awareness and to demonstrate how music can be used to express feelings.

The Charanga music scheme underpins music lessons in EYFS, Y1, Y2 and Y4. Each unit of work has an on-going musical learning focus and lessons follow the learning sequence:

- Listen and Appraise
- Musical Activities (including pulse and rhythm)
- Singing and Voice
- Playing instruments
- Improvisation / Composition
- Perform and Share

Children in Year 3 benefit from whole class specialist recorder teaching, delivered by a teacher from Herts Music Service. These lessons allow children the opportunity to learn to play an instrument as part of an ensemble and to engender a love of music learning. Throughout the sessions the interrelated elements of music are developed. Years 5 and 6 also receive whole class specialist teaching as they learn to play a brass instrument and perform in a marching band ensemble. At Rickmansworth Park, performance is at the heart of musical teaching and learning and pupils participate in a range of performances during their school 'career'. These include nativities (EYFS & KS1), Carol concert (Y4-6) and a Leavers performance (Year 6). Pupils also take part in a Harvest assembly and weekly singing assemblies. In addition, we work closely with Rickmansworth Secondary School; Year 4 participate in an annual music gala along with local schools, and KS3 music teachers come run sessions in samba and composition to Year 4. Year 6 visit Rickmansworth School for a music technology session in the summer term. In the spring term we hold an annual music concert. In the summer term, parents are invited to our talent show and our wonderful Proms in the Playground, where our marching bands perform on their brass instruments. Families have numerous opportunities to watch their children perform across the year.

Alongside our curriculum provision for music, pupils also have the opportunity to participate in additional 1:1 music teaching by being offered the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with peripatetic teachers. Currently on offer is piano, guitar and brass.

Every week in Monday's assembly, the children are presented with a new piece of music to listen to. These pieces are varied in genre, tradition and historical context.

The **impact** of music teaching in our school

In pupil voice surveys, over 85% of children *always* enjoy their music lessons, 100% of children say they have the chance to learn new things. Children know they are making progress because, in the 2023 survey they said:

"I know how to play instruments I didn't know before."
"My teacher has awarded me."
"I used to feel scared in music and now I feel excited."
"I work hard."
"I can do things I have never done before."

Music is embedded into the life of our school. Children regularly have opportunities to sing, to listen to music from different genres and traditions and to play instruments, compose music and perform to and with others. Singing assembly is frequently quoted by children as being the best assembly of the week.

When pupils leave Rickmansworth Park they have all received a level of musical education that will equip them to pursue music into secondary school, should they wish to, and will provide them with a lifelong appreciation of music.