



St Hilary's School

Performing Arts Policy

This policy applies equally to Prep as taught at St Hilary's.

'Drama is an art form, it involves: Imagination and feelings and helps us to make sense of the world, through creation of imagined characters and situations, and the relationships and events they encounter.' Arts Council

Introduction

The Performing Arts are an integral part of the school curriculum. All pupils are given the opportunity to participate fully in a variety of different ways; whether it is in class across the curriculum, in assembly, external competitions and examinations or school productions.

We actively promote democracy, the rule of the law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. These are fundamental British Values which underpin all that we offer, as does our School Motto 'Not for oneself but for all.'

Aims:

- To build self-esteem and confidence.
- To learn about dramatic form and its content.
- To express and share their own personal experiences.
- To help them share their ideas, feelings and responses.
- Make use of language, space, symbol, allegory and metaphor.
- To learn to co-operate with others and work as part of an ensemble.
- To foster a lifelong interest in theatre and the performing arts.

We provide this in:

- A broad and rich Drama and Performing Arts curriculum from Reception – Year 6
- Enrichment sessions (productions, public speaking, debating and voice)
- LAMDA sessions (available from Year 2) with specialist teacher.
- Dance lessons with Director of Performing Arts
- LAMDA Examinations.
- The Godalming Festival.
- Assemblies.
- In class, through English and Literacy links.

- Professional performances/Workshops/Theatre Trips.
- Off timetable days: E.g. Machwa Day, World War 1 day

Objectives:

The above aims will be met through the provision of opportunities offered to all children:

- To introduce and develop an awareness and enthusiasm for the Arts, particularly: Drama, Dance, Musical Theatre and Music.
- To develop intelligence and skills through a combination of emotional, physical and cognitive means.
- To ensure progression through: making, performing, and responding.
- To develop a constructive critical awareness of themselves and others.
- To provide rich experiences of the Arts through participating, critiquing and observing.
- To understand the process of planning, creating, presenting and evaluating.
- To develop understanding and appreciation of different cultures through the Arts.

Expectations of Teaching and Learning

As St Hilary's we encourage pupils to participate in a variety of Performing Arts activities, designed to develop their creative knowledge and skills. The schemes of work and rehearsal schedules are produced by the Director of Performing Arts and they are reviewed annually. Lessons are planned to meet the needs of the class/year group and deliver the scheme of work taking into account information gained through observations and assessments.

Planning and Curriculum Content

Organisation and Planning:

- Schemes of work
- Rehearsal Schedules
- Curriculum and lesson plans

The scheme of work and rehearsal schedules set out the key objectives to be reached as part of that terms teaching. Lessons are planned to provide opportunities to develop, apply and make progress with the wide range of Performing Arts skills. Within Enrichment and LAMDA lessons, children work in a variety of ways including: independently, in pairs, in groups, as a whole class or as a whole year group. Teachers also differentiate work in a variety of ways to meet the needs of individual pupils.

Differentiation:

Children with Special Needs

Teachers take into account a child's special educational needs when planning lessons to ensure that the maximum possible progress is made and that where possible factors which limit progress are minimised or eliminated.

The More Able Child

We also ensure that children who have a particular aptitude for the performing arts are challenged and provided with the opportunity to extend their abilities and learning in this subject. This may be through differentiation or extended tasks to complete in school or at home.

Resources

The Performing Arts Studio in The Hiorns Centre is the main teaching and resource space at the school, including books and scripts/ The LAMDA room is used to teach the optional extra-curricular LAMDA lessons. Books and props are also stored in this room to aid teaching.

The School Hall is used for Enrichment lessons. The stage, in the school hall, is also used when we are in rehearsal for productions. The Green room to the side of the stage in the school hall provides extra space for furniture and props needed for productions.

There is an extensive wardrobe department located in the attic rooms of the school.

Monitoring, Recording and Review:

The Director of Performing Arts is responsible for monitoring and planning the work. Assessment is done through observation, performance, discussion and evaluation. Self-assessment and peer assessment are also used as a method to gain further understanding of an individual's thoughts and analysis concerning their work and the work of others. Staff are encouraged to take photos or film the children's work as a record of an activity or performance.

Professional photographers and a DVD specialist are organised to record the school productions with parental consent.

Reviewed: July 2020

Next review: June 2021

Person responsible: Mr Mark Parton (Director of Performing Arts)