

**Letterfrack N.S**  
**Music Policy**

**Introductory Statement**

The whole school was involved in the drawing up of the music plan with reference to the teacher guidelines and the curriculum statement. All staff agreed with the key messages:

- Music is for all teachers and all pupils;
- The three strands of the Music Curriculum (listening and responding, performing and composing) are equally important;
- Active enjoyable participation is fundamental to the music curriculum;
- Music enhances the child's life.

**Rationale**

To benefit teaching and learning in our school

To provide a coherent approach to the teaching of music across the whole school

To ensure children have opportunities to develop music skills and concepts and use them to inspire, imagine and express feeling.

**Vision and Aims**

**Vision**

We seek to assist the children in our school in achieving their potential in the area of music in a relaxed environment where music can be enjoyed and appreciated fully.

**Aims**

We endorse the aims of the Primary School Curriculum

To enable the child to enjoy and understand music and to appreciate it critically

To develop the child's openness to, awareness of and response to a wide range of musical genres including Irish music

To develop the capacity to express ideas, feelings and experiences through music as an individual and in collaboration with others

To enable the child to develop his/her musical potential and to experience the excitement and satisfaction of being actively engaged in musical creativity

To nurture the child's self esteem and self confidence through participation in musical performance

To foster higher –order thinking skills and life long learning through the acquisition of musical knowledge, skills, concepts and values

To enhance the quality of the child's life through aesthetic musical experience.

**Additional aims of Letterfrack N.S**

To ensure all pupils have the opportunity to play an instrument before leaving national school.

To ensure all pupils have the opportunity to perform on stage for the community and parents at least once every 2 years throughout their time in school.

### Content of the Plan

#### **Strands and strand units**

In Letterfrack N.S. the three strands will be covered from Infants to 6<sup>th</sup>

- Listening and responding
- Performing
- Composing

Through completing the strands the child should be enabled to appreciate the following elements:

A sense of *pulse, duration, tempo, pitch, dynamics, structure, timbre, texture and style.*

### Methodologies

Children will be provided with opportunities to:

#### (1) Listen .

Teachers will select listening materials, recorded music, Irish music and music of other cultures.

The excerpts will be

- Short
- Varied
- Good examples from the genre

They will be played

- Several times
- Often
- On good quality audio equipment

#### (2) Respond

Children will be encouraged to respond in a variety of ways

- Moving and dancing
- Talking about the music
- Listening for specific instruments
- Painting a picture
- Write a response to the music
- Play or sing along to the music

#### (3) Perform

At Letterfrack N.S. children are taught the tin whistle (key D) in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. In 3<sup>rd</sup> class pupils are offered an opportunity to learn another instrument. Outside teachers are brought in to teach these instruments. The school has a number of instruments available for rent such as banjos, mandolins, fiddles, concertinas and accordion for a small fee.

Children make their preference known and the school do their best to accommodate everyone but may have to pull names out of a hat if there are not enough instruments to

go around. Every effort will be made to make sure every child has the opportunity to learn another instrument other than the whistle. Those that do not get their preferred instrument are offered the chance to learn the ukulele. The school has 10 ukuleles. Children will be taught to respect their instruments and play them softly.

After 2 years learning their new instrument children will be asked to source their own instrument if they wish to continue learning it. The instruments will then be offered to the next 3<sup>rd</sup> class children.

Shona Flaherty teaches the Ukulele every Tuesday as part of the Music Generation Programme. She also teaches the guitar to any child who has one and is interested in learning it at school. She also teaches percussion using the boom whackers. The school has a number of percussion instruments which they use in class during periods when percussion is being taught. Marie Walsh teaches the remaining instruments every Friday. These arrangements are reviewed annually depending on funding.

Children will have the opportunity to perform in class weekly. They will perform for peers and parents in the Granny and Granpa's Day or at the Christmas Nativity Performance. Occasionally children are invited to perform for members of the elderly community. Children are encouraged to make vlogs for Seesaw.

#### ***(4)Compose***

Children will have the opportunity to improvise, discuss, evaluate and record music as part of the composing strand.

#### **Linkage and Integration**

Music will be integrated with other subject areas, particularly Language, SESE and Gaeilge.

The Right Note and Dabledoo online music programme are used. There is a wide variety of extra music books from which songs and learning materials can be drawn from.

#### **Children with Different Needs**

We will adapt and modify activities to suit all children. Instruments, other than the tinwhistle will be bought for children showing a particular interest and flair for music. We will give children who have difficulty learning notes, number notation when learning a tune.

#### **Equality of Participation and Access**

Equal opportunities will be given to boys and girls in all classes to partake in music.

All children should have access to a wide range of instruments.  
The strands of the curriculum provide a number of opportunities to develop an intercultural music perspective.

### **Success Criteria/Assessment**

Teacher observation will be the principal assessment tool in music.

Pupils can be observed:

- Listening attentively
- Talking or writing about what has been heard
- Moving to music
- Singing a favourite song
- Reading a simple rhythmic or melodic pattern
- Sharing ideas for composing rehearsing a performance
- Attempting to record compositions

We will also assign teacher designated tasks.

## Organisational Planning

### **Timetable**

Structured lessons for development of skills will be taught in frequent, short, intensive lessons within the week. In the junior classes children will enjoy the experience of singing for a least a few minutes everyday.

### **Health and Safety**

The following considerations will be made when teaching music:

The level of sound in the room

Ventilation-Windows will be opened when necessary

The amount of space for children to stand or sit-tables and chairs will be moved to the windows if children are engaging in an active music lesson

Equipment-the teacher will be responsible for the safe storage and transport of musical equipment.

### **Individual teacher's planning and reporting**

Teachers will plan using the strands and strand units. They may use a thematic approach to their teaching. Teachers are encouraged to consider integration with other subjects when planning. Teachers will record objectives covered in the Cúntas Míósúil

### **Staff Development**

Teachers are encouraged to take part in courses outside of school.

They are encouraged to learn from the external teacher who comes in for Instrumental music.

Teachers are encouraged to share information, advice and expertise with their colleagues. Opportunities are provided for team teaching in our school. Whole school engagement takes place at school concerts and school masses.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parents/Guardians are invited to help with the performing aspect of the music curriculum. Parents/Guardians are asked to help in any way they can with the Christmas Play and the School Concert.

They are invited to attend all performances that their children are partaking in.

They are encouraged to play music at home with the main emphasis being on 'Music for fun and relaxation'.

### **Community links**

C.d's of local singers, and musicians will be purchased for the school so the children can appreciate the vast amount of talent that is in the locality.

They will be encouraged to attend the music classes that are available in The Teach Ceoil in Tully.

Children in the Senior classes will be familiar with the names of the local musicians and their achievements, particularly if there are any related to pupils in the classroom. Local musicians will be invited to play music for and with the children.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Principal will ensure the plan is implemented. Teachers will give feedback on the school development planning day.

### **Responsibility for review**

The Principal is responsible for co-coordinating the review.