



Buick Memorial Primary School

Music Policy

Reviewed: June 2025

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Music is fully embedded in the life of Buick Memorial Primary School. Playing an instrument and singing help to develop critical thinking, spatial reasoning and cognitive skills. Music stimulates complex thinking and demands commitment and imaginative decision making. Students who play music as part of a group develop team-working skills, self-discipline, self-esteem and the ability to listen to others. Music is a powerful medium for the communication between people of different ages, cultural and social backgrounds. There is strong evidence that musical skills are transferrable, promoting a high level of intellectual and physical attainment.

Aims for Music:

1. To nurture pupils' skills, knowledge and understanding in performing, composing listening and responding across the school.
2. To develop pupils' understanding of how music can take a variety of forms.
3. To develop realisation that music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written.
4. To promote pupils' independence, self-esteem, self-motivation and empathy towards others.
5. To foster the inter-related skills of performing, composing and responding to music.

Teaching and Learning Style:

Music is a combination of sounds, silence, rhythm, pitch, tone, melody and harmony that communicate emotions and ideas. Music in Buick Memorial is taught by class teachers, using the Charanga Musical School Scheme. Through the Charanga Programme, children develop their understanding, make musical judgments, apply their new learning, develop their aural memory, express themselves physically and emotionally and create their own musical ideas. Emphasis is placed on practical involvement by all pupils in performing, composing, listening and responding through whole class, small group, paired and individual activities. Teaching styles are selected to suit the chosen activity and the learning needs of the children. Primaries 1 and 2 have additional teaching from a Jo-Jingles specialist. Children from Primary 4 upwards learn to play the recorder.

Children have the opportunity to broaden their musical experiences through attending concerts and other musical events outside the school.

All classes have been furnished with a class set of untuned percussion instruments, funded by a significant amount of money applied for from Friends of Music in the EA (NE Region).

Music Curriculum Planning

In Buick Memorial, we follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum Programme of Study for Music. The Charanga Musical Scheme delivers an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning. Each year group has 6 units of study, subdivided into weekly lessons across the year. Each unit of work is comprised of 3 strands of musical learning:

1. Listening and Appraising
2. Musical Activities:
 - warm-up games
 - optional flexible games
 - singing
 - playing instruments
 - improvisation
 - composition
3. Performing

Children can both develop new musical skills and concepts and re-visit established skills as they move through the units. Children will be involved in:

1. Decision making
2. Problem solving
3. Refining and rehearsing
4. Presenting
5. Evaluating
6. Responding with feeling
7. Making music with commitment, sensitivity and accuracy
8. Directing and following musical direction

The Music Co-ordinator accesses six-weekly planners from each year-group to monitor progression. Pupils regular deliver public performances also allow them to demonstrate progress achieved.

Inclusion:

The study of music engages pupils in a variety of planned activities matched to age, ability and any additional educational needs. Teachers differentiate to allow for the different pace at which pupils progress within the activities of composing, performing, listening and responding. We achieve this through:

- setting open-ended tasks
- setting a range of tasks of increasing complexity
- grouping children with others of mixed or similar abilities according to task
- using classroom assistants to support children during tasks

Additional Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

Peripatetic music teachers from the Education Authority Music Board visit Buick Memorial on a weekly basis. Children from Primary 3 upwards are offered the opportunity to pay for lessons and hire instruments from the Board or from the school. We offer lessons in:

Violin

Viola

Cello

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Oboe

Bassoons, trumpets, trombones and French horns will also be sourced if requested.

Children play together in ensembles.

All pupils are encouraged and supported to prepare for examinations through Trinity College, Guildhall or the ABRSM examination providers.

Children from Primary 4 upwards audition for a place in the school choir.

Breadth and Balance:

We actively encourage and promote live music in school. All pupils have a weekly hymn practice and join together to sing at Morning Assembly each week. Children are given many opportunities to perform and share music with each other. At Christmas, Nursery, Foundation and Key Stage 1 perform Christmas music to parents and Key Stage 2 invite members of the local community to join with them in the Annual Christmas Carol Service held in the Cuningham Memorial Presbyterian Church as part of our aim to forge links within our local area. In addition, the choir perform on Radio Cracker each year at Christmas.

Every other year, we hold a whole-school concert in Cullybackey College. All classes prepare an item on the programme, which also includes the choir, verse-speakers, dancers and instrumentalists to showcase the high standard of skills in the Arts within our school.

The school choir and instrumentalists also compete at our local Ballymena Festival of Music and Dance. This gives the children a goal to work towards, the opportunity to hear their peers from other schools perform and the sense of achievement which comes with working together to achieve a common goal.

Each year, pupils attend a workshop run by members of The Ulster Orchestra to experience professional musicians performing a varied programme of music, which includes technical explanations of sound production and an introduction to live classical music.