



## Music Rationale

At Cavendish, children are introduced to music from a very early age, beginning in Nursery. This early exposure often nurtures a lifelong passion for music. Whether children are singing, playing instruments, writing music, or performing, they are given numerous opportunities to participate in a wide range of musical activities and structured music lessons. Young children are naturally drawn to music, sometimes even before other forms of communication, delighting in singing and dancing to familiar songs. Their love for rhyme and rhythm is encouraged and developed through daily access to instruments and music in provision. Daily singing or rhyme sessions are timetabled, ensuring that music is a consistent part of their early years experience.

Practising and performing music is highly valued at Cavendish, as it helps foster self-esteem, teamwork and resilience in pupils. The school takes pride in children who choose to pursue musical hobbies outside of school and actively seeks to integrate their talents into the school environment whenever possible.

### **Curriculum and Planning**

From Year 1 through to Year 6, we follow the KAPOW scheme as a planning tool, which ensures comprehensive coverage of the national curriculum and provides pupils with a broad range of musical experiences. Activities are delivered in various formats: as whole-class sessions, in small groups and independently. Additionally, children in Year 4 are given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, with current lessons focused on the recorder. There is a wide selection of musical instruments and resources available, which are used during lessons according to the focus of each unit. Evidence of learning is collected in class floor books via learning journeys and performances are recorded and saved online whenever possible. Singing assemblies take place each week and performances at Christmas and Summer are well attended by parents. After-school clubs also follow children's interests and talents.

### **Developing Musical Skills and Understanding**

The KAPOW curriculum is designed to build the skills, knowledge and understanding required for pupils to become confident performers, composers and listeners. It introduces children to music from a diverse range of cultures and traditions, promoting respect and appreciation for the music of all communities. Pupils develop their musical skills through singing, playing both tuned and untuned instruments, improvising, composing and actively listening and responding to music. They also gain an appreciation for the historical and cultural context of the music they encounter and learn methods for music notation. New learning is emphasised at the start of each key stage, providing regular opportunities for pupils to revisit, consolidate and apply their knowledge in subsequent years.

### **Assessment in Music**

Children begin their musical journey from different starting points, influenced by their prior experience and engagement in the subject. Teachers assess pupils' knowledge, understanding, and skills in music through ongoing observations, focusing on how children work, practise, and demonstrate their abilities through performance.