North-West Midlands Music Education Hub, Quality Framework

Striving for excellence	Being authentic	Exciting, inspiring and engaging.	A positive, child-centred experience.
What it is:	What it is:	What it is:	What it is:
Creating an atmosphere of doing one's best Expressing high expectations so that pupils	Musical activity is real and meaningful.	The work excites and engages and is pitched at the right level for all participants.	The safeguarding of children and young people is put above all other considerations.
exceed their best. Recognizing and removing barriers to	Links are made to professional musicians and great music/compositions to deepen the	Activity is challenging but accessible.	All activities are 'by, with and for' young people.
participation.	enjoyment and understanding of music.	Repertoire is age and level -appropriate.	The learning atmosphere is warm and
Robustly monitoring the quality of activities.	Performances that make participants	Leaders can demonstrate high quality performance.	inclusive.
Being clear about desired outcomes within	feel proud.	Language is age and level -appropriate.	Everyone is treated with equal respect.
a long-term framework.	Taking the enjoyment of the audience into account.	Leaders engage participants with humour	Diversity of culture, background and religion is encouraged and valued.
Creativity and expression feature in all activities.	Showing humility and learning how	and warmth.	Encouraging a sense of community.
Young people can engage with a range of	to accept feedback.	Leaders use a range of activities which are fun and maintain engagement but still	Health and Safety is considered at every
musical traditions and styles.	Using digital resources and technologies to enhance the live	achieve set outcomes.	step with risk assessments being in place and followed.
Everyone is learning from participants to leaders.	music experience.	Empower young people to achieve.	Recognise that each person has a unique
Next steps are clear and detailed so young people know how/where to develop next.	Ensure young people understand what they have achieved.		perspective.
Use initiative to act on opportunities.	Set out a clear vision of what is required for success.		
Display a "can do" attitude.			

What it isn't:	What it isn't:	What it isn't:	What it isn't:
Activities with no purpose or direction e.g.	Using shallow versions of	Slow pace in sessions.	Not taking responsibility for the welfare of
'just for fun'	inappropriate repertoire.		children and young people.
		Not demonstrating sufficient expertise or	
Valuing the welfare of staff over children.	Failing to encourage learning from	musical qualities to inspire participants.	Thinking that someone else will deal with
	others.		safeguarding issues when they arise.
Encouraging participation at the cost of		Repertoire is not appropriate.	
achievement.	Overly long or poor performances.		Harsh criticism or negative feedback.
		Not connecting with the participants at	
Failure to plan activities with clear	Not admitting mistakes.	their level.	Failing to actively value and reach out to
outcomes.			young people of diverse backgrounds and
	Failing to use digital technology to	Setting unachievable levels	circumstances.
Sticking to one style of music or 'what we	support learning.		
always do'.			Failing to adapt to learning speeds and
			ensuring young people fully understand
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			Excluded young people from activity
			without full consideration of possible
			activity alterations.

Actively involving children	A sense of personal progression	A sense of ownership and belonging
What it is:	What it is:	What it is:
Music is the dominant language – the majority of time is spent making music.	Enabling young people to achieve their potential	Encouraging self-direction and choice
Young people can perform fluently and musically.	Being responsible for transition into and out of activities.	Providing opportunities for reflection and self- evaluation
Creativity and risk-taking is encouraged.	Linking activities to nationally recognized awards (e.g. Arts Award)	Recognizing the opinions of young people.
Young people lead activities, make decisions and put forward their views on a regular basis.	Young people show increased self-confidence and self-	Including young people in leading, managing and governing.
Making safe use of digital technology, web based resources	esteem.	Offering apprenticeships and volunteer
and social media.	Supporting young people to attain targets set out in the National Curriculum.	opportunities.
What it isn't:	What it isn't:	What it isn't:
Long explanations or too much 'talk'.	Putting commercial concerns above the musical progress of young people.	Ignoring the feelings of young people.
No opportunities to create or compose.	Not taking responsibility for how the activity links to the	Not helping young people resolve issues or disputes when they arise.
Keeping children in a group waiting while working with others.	'before and after'.	Having no systems for leadership by young people.
Not taking the views and ideas of young people into account.	Failing to acknowledge the need for young people to be rewarded for personal progress.	Not providing social games or activities
Failing to make (safe) use of digital technology.	Making no links to the world of work.	Not offering work or volunteer opportunities to young people.