

Music development plan summary: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	/10/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	05/07/27
Name of the school music lead	Lottie Flynn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jade Preedy (Curriculum Lead)
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At St Mary's, music is an integral part of school life and is delivered through a combination of timetabled curriculum lessons and wider musical experiences. All year groups receive regular music lessons, complemented by opportunities for music appreciation through hymn practice, Masses and assemblies.

We use the Kapow Primary Music Scheme, which is fully aligned with the National Curriculum for Music. Through the delivery of its carefully sequenced and progressive units, we ensure that all statutory requirements are met. Progress and attainment are monitored through lesson observations, pupil work, subject documentation and progression records. Pupil voice activities demonstrate that children are developing a secure understanding of key musical vocabulary and concepts, with increasing confidence in recalling and applying their knowledge.

Lesson observations show high levels of engagement and participation from all pupils, including those with SEND. The school has a wide range of musical instruments available to support practical learning and enrich the music curriculum. Our music appreciation programme exposes pupils to a diverse range of musical styles, genres and traditions, fostering their ability to listen critically and respond thoughtfully to music.

Staff demonstrate confidence in teaching the musical elements and supporting pupils in developing their listening and appraisal skills. This year, our focus has been on increasing opportunities for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND to fully access and succeed within the music curriculum. In addition, we have reviewed our approaches to assessment and the tracking of progression to ensure greater consistency across the school.

These developments will strengthen pupils' knowledge and skills across all areas of music, with a particular emphasis on improvisation, composition and performance. By embedding clear progression and inclusive practice, we aim to ensure that every child can develop as a confident, creative and reflective musician.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At St Mary's, pupils benefit from a rich and varied programme of musical enrichment that extends beyond the classroom and provides opportunities for all children to develop their musical knowledge, skills and confidence.

Weekly hymn practice forms a central part of school life, enabling pupils to learn and perform a wide repertoire of songs. Children participate with enthusiasm and confidence, developing their vocal skills as well as an appreciation of collective musical performance.

All Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to participate in whole-class ukulele tuition, culminating in two annual performances that celebrate and showcase their progress and achievements. In addition, we offer a broad range of instrumental tuition through experienced freelance music teachers. Lessons are available for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 and currently include keyboards, guitar, ukulele and violin. Pupils receiving instrumental tuition are encouraged to further develop their talents by participating in ensembles beyond the school setting and by performing regularly within school.

Performance opportunities are a significant strength of music provision at St Mary's. Music concerts are held three times a year, providing pupils with a platform to share their learning and celebrate their musical achievements with parents, peers and the wider school community. Throughout the year, children also participate in Christmas

productions, class assemblies and other musical performances, helping to develop their confidence, stage presence and collaborative skills.

For many years, St Mary's has proudly participated in Young Voices, with a choir of approximately 30 to 40 Key Stage 2 pupils taking part annually. This experience allows children to perform as part of a large-scale choir, broadening their musical experiences and fostering a lifelong enjoyment of singing. We also have pupils who represent the school through Music Hub ensembles and performances, providing further opportunities for musical growth and engagement within the wider community.

Through these varied enrichment opportunities, St Mary's aims to inspire a love of music, nurture musical talent and ensure that all pupils can experience the enjoyment and benefits of active participation in music-making.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

At St Mary's, we are committed to providing all pupils with a wide range of high-quality musical experiences that enrich their education and foster a lifelong appreciation of music. These opportunities enable children to develop their confidence, creativity and performance skills while engaging with music in a variety of contexts.

Throughout the academic year, pupils participate in numerous musical events and performances. Annual experiences such as the school pantomime provide opportunities for children to engage with live performance and develop an appreciation of the performing arts. Weekly hymn practices play a significant role in the spiritual and musical life of the school, allowing pupils to develop their singing skills and perform a broad repertoire of music with confidence.

All Year 5 pupils receive whole-class ukulele tuition, providing an inclusive opportunity to learn an instrument and perform for audiences. St Mary's also maintains a strong tradition of participation in Young Voices, enabling Key Stage 2 pupils to take part in a large-scale national singing event and experience performing as part of a mass choir.

Performance opportunities are embedded throughout the school year. Pupils regularly showcase their musical development through year group assemblies, Nativity productions and the Year 6 end-of-year performance. These events encourage children to perform with increasing confidence and provide opportunities to share their achievements with parents, carers and the wider school community.

In addition, pupils benefit from retreat days that include musical guests and performers. These experiences further enrich the curriculum by exposing children to a range of

musical styles, performers and live music-making opportunities, while supporting the school's Catholic ethos and spiritual development.

Through this broad range of experiences, St Mary's ensures that all pupils have regular opportunities to listen to, perform, appreciate and engage with music, helping to develop confident, enthusiastic and well-rounded musicians.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

To further enhance music provision across the school, we will focus on broadening the range of musical opportunities available to pupils and strengthening staff expertise. We aim to source additional specialist music teachers to provide tuition in a wider variety of instruments, enabling more children to develop their musical interests and talents. We will also invest in professional development for staff who do not regularly teach music, increasing their confidence, subject knowledge and ability to deliver high-quality music lessons. In addition, we will seek to establish stronger partnerships with external musical organisations, such as the Birmingham Rep and other local arts providers, to enrich pupils' experiences through workshops, performances and community-based projects. These improvements will help ensure that all pupils have access to a diverse, engaging and high-quality music education.