St Mary's Catholic Primary School Music Development Plan 2026 - 2027

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	14/07/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Martin Parker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Martin Parker
Name of local music hub	ENTRUST
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	ENTRUST

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, we currently teach music for one hour every week and this is adhered to by all year groups. We have a clear and progressive music curriculum which covers a range of different genres and cultures.

To ensure our children have every opportunity to develop and foster their musical talents, we use 'Kapow', an interactive program which teaches the children to listen and respond to a variety of musical genres, through the vehicle of singing, playing a variety of instruments, exploring form and composing their own musical compositions. Kapow also aids children to develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative-thinking, problem-solving, presentation and performance skills with the view of creating a life-long love of music.

We have carefully planned our music curriculum to ensure that all children can access it regardless of their level of ability. To ensure all pupils with SEND can participate fully

and make progress in their music learning, we have given careful consideration to how we deliver our music curriculum. Learning is sequenced so that children revisit and revise key concepts. Key vocabulary and key concepts are revisited at the start of lessons in order to give children with SEN more time and opportunities to understand the concepts and vital knowledge they need to access the learning. Chunking learning into small steps can support SEND children to comprehend new ideas. Therefore, there is a carefully planned progression within and between lessons. Regular checks throughout the lesson help to ensure that pupils understand the key content in the lesson. Promoting a positive and supportive environment for all pupils in music is essential for supporting SEND pupils. We work hard to ensure positive relationships and active engagement in lessons. Flexible groupings ensure that pupils with SEND are fully integrated and benefit from peer-to-peer support. Resources with strong visual and practical elements are used to aid memory and understanding. Flexible recording strategies are used in order that children are not impaired by their writing ability when demonstrating their musical knowledge.

All pupils have the opportunity to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time through whole-class ensemble teaching. From Reception through to year 6, children develop their instrumental skills.

During the year, each year group is assigned with a performance, based on one of their Music units. The children practise their song or piece of music before performing it in front of their peers and parents.

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, a range of opportunities are provided for pupils to learn and play music outside of music lessons. Currently, we offer music lessons for piano, keyboard, guitar and drums. In this academic year, we have 12 children learning piano, 6 children learning keyboard, 7 children learning guitar and 10 children learning drums. The provision is provided by two companies (iRock and Oliver Docksey Music). These sessions range from 20 – 30 minutes and can either be individual or groups. During these sessions, the children receive dedicated time with one of iRock's or ODM's professional musicians. Each group of children learns to play instruments as part of a band, encouraging collaboration and working as a team, all whilst levelling up their musical ability and developing a love of music. We currently have 2 pupil premium children learning an instrument but our policy states that any pupil premium child is entitled to free musical instrument lessons.

We also offer two weekly after-school singing clubs, ‘Just Jammin’ and ‘Showstoppers’. Just Jammin’ currently has 10 pupils, while Showstoppers has 20 children from Years 2 to 6. These clubs provide valuable opportunities for pupils to develop their vocal skills, build confidence, express their creativity and work collaboratively with their peers. They also encourage a love of music and performance, allowing children to develop their talents in a supportive and enjoyable environment.

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.

At St Mary’s, we ensure that we plan for a range of different musical experiences throughout the academic year to ensure we provide our children with rich and stimulating musical opportunities. Children regularly sing in assemblies and we implement a hymn practice once a week. At Christmas time, Year 5 take part in their Christmas Tableau which takes place at the local church and is attended by a maximum of 400 people. Parents and grandparents are invited to watch the production at the local church at no cost.

Both KS1 and the EYFS put on their own nativity production with Year 2 and Reception taking the leading roles. These include all speaking parts and solos. Again, parents and grandparents are encouraged to watch the children’s performances and ticket prices cost £1.

During music lessons, the children will be learning different songs and how to play instruments. Each year group has a selected unit from the curriculum, where at the end of that unit, they will perform their song/musical piece to their key stage. We also invite parents in to watch the performances as a way of building relationships with parents and showcasing what their children have been learning in Music.

Throughout the year, tuition students and the choir have opportunities to show off their musical ability during various concerts. These include: singing at Young Voices, Brookfields house, Belong village and Rowan court; Carols Against Cancer at St John Fisher; Eccleshall Music Festival and the Summer Music concert at St John Fisher,.

At the end of each academic year, Year 6 put on their end of year production whereby they take centre stage in the acting and performing of many songs that accompany their performance. Families are invited to watch the production and ticket prices cost £3. We also put on a musical assembly in the Summer term whereby all the children who attend one-to-one tuition have the opportunity to play to the rest of the school and parents.

In the future

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

At St Mary's, we are always planning for ways to continuously develop and improve our music curriculum to ensure we deliver the highest quality of teaching and learning to all of our pupils. For the subsequent years, we aim to expand our musical performance assemblies which provide children with the opportunities to showcase their musical abilities and talents. We will also extend our partnerships with local music groups in order that the children have the experience of seeing live skilled musicians perform more often.