

# Music development plan summary: St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Michael Dalton
Name of local music hub	Edsential Musical Routes
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 of the Angels, our approach to music has developed over time, drawing on guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to strengthen the way we teach the subject. Our aim is to nurture children's enjoyment of music and to provide high-quality lessons that inspire them to reach their potential. At St Mary's, music education is designed to: build a genuine appreciation and understanding of music through listening, appraising, composing and performing; give pupils opportunities for creativity, reflection and emotional

expression, both individually and in groups; and encourage an awareness of the richness and diversity of music across cultures, genres and historical periods.

Music holds an important place in our curriculum and is taught consistently throughout the school year as part of our vision to “Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life.” Each year group follows a Long-Term Plan with clear End Points that go beyond the expectations of the National Curriculum. Lessons are often linked to wider curriculum themes—for example, Y5 pupils explore North American musical traditions, while Y4 compose songs inspired by rivers. Teachers are supported by the Charanga scheme to deliver high-quality lessons.

Music is taught weekly, averaging around 30 minutes per class, though this may vary depending on the unit of work. Class teachers plan and deliver their music provision with oversight from the Subject Leader, ensuring coverage and progression. Our staff bring strong subject knowledge, and where teachers have particular expertise, they also support music teaching in other year groups—for instance, the Y4 teacher delivers music in both Y3 and Y4. Where objectives are harder to implement, we use themed days and weeks to ensure that they are covered such as Spanish Day and Composers Week. We make use of adaptive teaching approaches, including sequencing lessons carefully, breaking learning into smaller steps, and using rehearsal and repetition to secure understanding.

Objectives for each year are taken from the agreed End Points, ensuring expectations remain manageable. Following recommendations from Ofsted’s Research Review Series: Music, we have emphasised regular practice and reinforcement of key skills across year groups. For this reason, tuned instruments are mainly taught through the Glockenspiel, giving children the chance to build on prior learning. In addition, Y2 pupils learn recorder and Y5 pupils take part in violin lessons through Wider Opportunities provision.

Progress is tracked using a whole-school assessment system on Google Drive. Each cohort has a tracking grid that moves up with them year by year, allowing teachers to identify gaps and monitor progress over time. These records are updated throughout the school year to reflect ongoing teaching and learning.

## **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 of the Angels, music provision extends beyond the core curriculum to ensure pupils enjoy a wide range of experiences. Our co-curricular programme is designed to give children meaningful opportunities to sing and play instruments, fostering a lasting enjoyment of music while supporting strong progress in their skills.

Singing has a central role within school life and worship. As a Catholic school, music in liturgy is an important expression of faith, and regular assemblies provide the space for collective singing as well as focused learning on musical elements such as pitch, rhythm and dynamics. Each Key Stage rehearses weekly, drawing from shared resources, and these songs are later performed together at whole-school assemblies and Masses.

The school choir, open to all pupils in Key Stage 2, further enriches musical life at St Mary's. The choir not only develops children's vocal technique through more challenging repertoire, but also builds their confidence by offering opportunities to sing in smaller groups or as soloists. Choir members represent the school in a range of settings, including parish services, community events, and seasonal celebrations such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs.

Instrumental learning is an important strand of our music curriculum. In Year 2, pupils begin with whole-class recorder lessons, giving them an introduction to reading notation, playing in time and performing as an ensemble. Later, in Year 5, children take part in Wider Opportunities provision, learning the violin together as a class. Their progress is celebrated through performances across the year, helping to consolidate skills and showcase achievement.

## 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 of the Angels, pupils are given a wide range of opportunities to experience and take part in live music. Attending performances is seen as an important part of musical education, helping children to develop both appreciation and understanding of different styles and settings. Each year, pupils attend a pantomime in school, introducing them to aspects of theatre and performance. Links with the local high school also enable instrumental groups to perform for our pupils, providing inspiring role models. In Year 6,

children extend this experience further with a visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, giving them the chance to see world-class musicians perform.

Performance is also central to music within school. Alongside choir events, every class has regular opportunities to present their work. The annual St Mary's Music Festival is a highlight of the summer term, where each class performs a range of songs to the school community. Throughout the year, pupils also perform as part of fundraising events such as the Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, and Year 5 pupils take part in Amasing, joining with other schools to perform on a large scale.

Seasonal celebrations are another key feature of our musical life. At Christmas, EYFS and KS1 perform a nativity, while KS2 pupils take part in a carol concert that includes traditional and contemporary repertoire. In the summer, Year 6 stage their end-of-year production, supported vocally by the rest of KS2. These events not only celebrate the achievements of our pupils but also strengthen the sense of community that music brings to our school.

## In the future

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

At St Mary of the Angels, we are dedicated to continuously improving our music curriculum to ensure that it meets the highest standards and provides enriching opportunities for all students. As a result, we intend to implement some key improvements.

- Aim to increase the amount of taught music to 1 hour a week
- Introduction of a wider range of instruments on offer for small group or individual lessons
- Use of themed days to help teach about a wider variety of composers
- Further develop opportunities for music visits across different year groups
- Support for teachers using technology within the Charanga scheme
- Improved opportunities for professional development for teachers, especially those who lack confidence

- Clearer guidance on how to evidence music delivery for teachers
- Evaluation of provision for SEND pupils
- Exploration of improved musical engagement with feeder secondary schools

## Further information

To supplement our offer at school, the Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.