

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



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
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, we have reviewed and refined our practice over time, including following guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to enhance our approach to music education. We strive to cultivate a real enjoyment of music and aim to deliver high-quality music teaching, supporting and encouraging all children to achieve their full potential. Through Music as St Mary's we aim to: foster a love and understanding of music through active involvement in listening, appraising, composing and performing enable children's

personal expression, reflection and emotional development through music making, both individually and together; and promote the understanding and appreciation of the richness and diversity of world cultures, styles, times and periods.

Music is a foundation subject which is taught regularly throughout the year and it is valued as a systemic part of our school vision to “Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life.” Each year group has a Long-Term Plan alongside a series of specific End Points for each topic which cover the objectives from the National Curriculum and more. Music delivery is often taught in line with relevant topic work, for instance children listening to styles of music from North America (Y5) and creating songs based around rivers (Y4). The Charanga music scheme is used as a support tool for teachers.

Regular music lessons are delivered dependent on the long-term plan, with an expectation of around half-an-hour a week of music teaching on average, although there is understanding that this might be higher and lower at different times. Individual class teachers are responsible for organising the long-term plan with the support of the Subject Leader to ensure adequate coverage. St Mary of the Angels has well established and experienced teachers with expert knowledge of their year groups. Where there is specific expertise, teachers support in other year groups; for instance the Y4 teacher teaches music in both Y3 and Y4. As a school we use adaptive teaching and specifically the strategy of outlining where in the sequence of learning a lesson fits, as well as chunking, oral rehearsal and systematic and repetitive rehearsal.

Learning objectives are taken from the yearly end-points ensuring that they are not over burdensome. Following information taken from the most recent Ofsted Research Review Series: Music, it was decided that music skills should be regularly repeated across the year and the school to ensure improvement in those specific skills. As a result of this, tuned instrumentation is mostly limited to Glockenspiel across the school to ensure that children are able to build on prior knowledge. In Y2 however, children do learn recorder and in Y5 children learn the violin as part of their Wider Opportunities provision.

The End Points are collated on our Google Drive assessment system and each cohort has a tracking grid which moves with them throughout their time at the school. This ensures that teachers are able to track back and find gaps in learning. This tracking grid is completed as teaching and learning takes place throughout the year.

## 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, we are dedicated to delivering a broad and varied musical education that goes beyond the standard curriculum. Our co-curricular music program is crafted to give students plenty of chances to engage in singing and playing instruments, nurturing a lasting passion for music and helping them advance significantly in their musical accomplishments.

A regular feature of music provision at St Mary of the Angels is the use of both Key Stage and whole school singing assemblies. As a Catholic school, singing through worship is a fundamental part of school-life. These assemblies are not just opportunities for collective singing, but also feature educational aspects where children learn about aspects such as pitch and dynamics. Each Key Stage practises separately on a weekly basis, using songs from collective resources. These learnt songs are then sung together at whole-school assemblies and masses.

Throughout the school year, we involve the school choir in a wide array of opportunities to perform. The choir is open to all children from Key Stage 2 and it is a vibrant addition to school life. The choir provides opportunities for children to develop their vocal skills by learning more challenging songs, but also gives them to opportunity to perform in solo or small group situations in front of live audiences. The choir performs at many community events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs as well as performing at the local church.

During their time at St Mary of the Angel's, all children are given the opportunity to learn an instrument as part of a well-rounded music curriculum. In Year 2, children start their musical journey by having the opportunity to learn recorder as a whole-class, during which they develop basic musical skills such as reading notation and playing in time. In Year 5, pupils are given the opportunity through Wider Opportunities to learn the violin as an ensemble. They improve their technical skills, which they are able to showcase in a performance at three occasions over the year.

## 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.

Children have the opportunity to perform and experience high-quality music at a number of occasions during the school year. Attending live performances is a key part of our music curriculum. Visits to school are organised such as the yearly pantomime performance, which entertains and educates students about different types of theatrical expression. Additionally, we utilise links with a local high school to allow them to come and perform instruments for the students. During Y6, the children have the opportunity to see world-class performance with a visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

We offer many opportunities to perform for pupils at St Mary of the Angels. Alongside choir performances, each class has numerous opportunities to perform. This is most evident at the St Mary's Music Festival in the summer, where each class performs a variety of songs. Similarly, at different points throughout the year, each phase takes part in a Macmillan Coffee Afternoon where they raise money for charity. This involves each class and phase performing songs of their choosing. Also, during the summer term, Y5 take part in Amasing, where they perform in a concert with a large number of schools from the local area.

Seasonal performances are a standout feature of our music program. During Christmas, we host a nativity play by our EYFS and KS1 students, uniting the school community in festive celebration. Likewise, KS2 perform in a carol concert, where they learn and sing a wide variety of Christmas carols, old and new alike. During the summer term, our Year 6 students stage a production, with the entire KS2 assisting with the singing. These events not only showcase the musical accomplishments of our students but also reinforce the sense of community within the 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
- Introduction of themed days to help teach about a wider variety of composers
- Further develop opportunities for music visits across different year groups
- Improved opportunities for professional development for teachers, especially those who lack confidence
- Creation of a space for rehearsals and individual practice
- 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.