

Music development plan summary: St Mary and St Joseph's RC Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	Sept 26
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 27
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Grace Driscoll
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Andrea Thomson
Name of local music hub	Bolton
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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

At St Mary and St Joseph's, we aim to provide children with music experiences and lessons that promote enjoyment, great interest and a love of music. Children are encouraged to create and respond to music with their own thoughts, ideas and feelings; allowing them to express themselves as individuals through music.

In the EYFS children sing every day, exploring pulse and rhythm, whilst music is also integrated into all aspects of learning. Children are given the opportunity to play instruments in lessons and to explore independently through continuous provision, both indoors and outdoors. This includes the use of untuned and tuned percussion instruments such as drums, shakers and glockenspiels.

In KS1 and KS2, all aspects of the National Curriculum for Music are taught through the Kapow condensed music scheme, ensuring that a range of musical styles are covered and that the inter-related dimensions of music (pulse, pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, appropriate musical notation) are given great attention in terms of coverage. A range of instruments are available for use in lessons and resources are bought through the school budget when required. From this

year, Year 3 children will also be given the opportunity to learn the ukulele with a specialist teacher from the Bolton Music Service.

Music technology is available to support lessons through the use of Garage Band and other available apps to support children's composition skills in KS2. Previously, we have also had a musical technology/DJ workshop from an outside agency which supported children and staff in Year 6 to compose their own music using technological resources and the feedback and learning outcomes from this were very positive. This is something that we may look towards completing again this year alongside any other CPD or workshops that may support teaching and learning within this area.

As subject lead, I am now teaching music across all year groups on a weekly rota basis. This is in addition to lessons taught by class teachers and focusses upon the developing skills and progression over the year groups. All classes are taught the same topic/theme, with the intended outcome and objectives adapted to suitably challenge children of all ages and abilities.

All children are provided with equal opportunities to fully access curriculum music and further music enhancements, including those with SEND and Pupil Premium children. Lessons are adapted when necessary to meet the needs of all pupils, ensuring that each child is given the chance to reach their full musical potential.

Part B: Co-curricular music

A teacher from the Bolton Music service will come to school on a weekly basis, teaching children how to play the ukulele.

Children are given optimum chance to perform to an audience in a variety of ways such as in class-based activities, assemblies and whole school/key stage productions such as Nativity performances and end of year showcase in Year 6. Parents and carers are always invited to join us for performances and the children show great enjoyment in showing them the new skills that they have learnt.

Alongside music lessons, we gather together in school for Praise Through Song weekly and we also have assemblies which include singing together each day. Singing and music activities are incorporated into other schemes and online resources that are widely used throughout school such as Sparkyard, TenTen and Mark 10 Mission. Children are actively encouraged to sing, introducing movement alongside songs to promote engagement and physical responses to music. Music is often included across cross curricular subjects to support learning and to embed knowledge.

Over the past few academic years we have carried out whole school music days focused upon various different aspects of music within the Model Music Curriculum.

We have looked at, responded to and created music from various cultures, explored music outdoors and composed our own music using a variety of different instruments for different purposes. We have created great links with Our Lady and St John's High School, taking some upper KS2 children for a music lesson at OLSJ. The children were given the chance to experience music lessons in a High School setting and one that some of them may move on to. Last year, we had our SMSJ Summer fest and our Rock Kidz experience day, becoming rock stars for the day at school! This was both inspiring and exciting for the children, bringing great enthusiasm and engagement.

This year, I will be further enhancing learning of notation and how to play an instrument in my own lessons across school, introducing the keyboards across school. We will then extend this to composing and performing our own pieces of music.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children are given the opportunity to listen to and learn from other musicians whilst at school, particularly those who are involved in extracurricular activities such as the choir and dance groups. The choir are involved in various events such as singing and performing at Blackburn Cathedral at Christmas and in the Summer Term, Carol Singing at school and in the local area and also performing in great venues such as King George's Hall; taking part in large scale events alongside other schools and live musicians. The whole school has been given the opportunity to engage in listening to live music on school trips to the pantomime, heavily subsidised by school for those children who are on our Pupil Premium register, ensuring all children are given equal opportunities.

Last year, we had a whole school music day with Rock Kidz. The children fully embraced this day, dressing as rock stars! They were given the chance to both listen and perform on the day, with challenges adapted for different year groups. It was an enjoyable day and received positive feedback from the children.

On our SMSJ Summer Fest day, we had our very own Mr Addy as our resident DJ! This allowed all children to see the equipment needed to be a DJ and to listen to the different types of music and how they can be mixed together in different ways. Seeing a familiar person, one of our very own class teachers being a DJ, will also hopefully inspire some children in the future!

In the future

- To provide all children with extra music lessons, in addition to their class Kapow lessons, on a weekly basis. This will be on a weekly rota/timetable.
- To focus on notation and how to read music, developing across school.
- To develop knowledge of musical vocabulary alongside notation and how this relates to the way the instrument is played.
- To develop knowledge and skills in composing own music, including the use of technology.
- To arrange further music experience days such as Rock Kidz.
- To continue to provide performance opportunities such as Cathedral choir concerts, Let's Go Sing and Dance Troupe concerts.