

Music development plan summary: Saint Mary's Catholic Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic Year covering this summary	2025-2026
Summary published	09/25
Summary to be reviewed	09/26
School Music Lead	Miss C Cox
SLT Member with responsibility for Music (if different)	Mrs L Gleed-Thornley
Local Music Hub	Lincolnshire Music Services

A summary of how Saint Mary's delivers music education to all pupils across 3 areas: curriculum, co-curricular and musical experiences and future changes planned. Information will help pupils and parents/carers understand what Saint Mary's offers and who will support music education for all pupils.

Part A: Curriculum Music

- What is taught in lesson time
- Time spent teaching music
- Music qualifications/awards for pupils

Music is defined by the **National Curriculum (2014)** as follows:

'A universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.'

In line with this vision, our curriculum ensures that music has a central role in the life of St Mary's. Every class has 45 minutes dedicated **each week** to music; opportunities to sing daily in collective worship; weekly singing assemblies for pupils to practise, perform and develop vocal skills. Music is taught discretely and through cross-curricular links, thus **enriching learning** and connecting **faith** and **wider culture**.

The **Model Music Curriculum** (2021) states: "Music is all around us. It is creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. In our schools, music can bring communities together through the shared endeavour of whole-school singing, ensemble playing, experimenting with the creative process and, through the love of listening to friends and fellow pupils,

performing. The sheer joy of music making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student, while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school.”

At Saint Mary’s, this vision is reflected daily. By singing together as a whole school, pupils experience the joy of shared music-making, building unity and belonging. Music brings children of all ages together, fosters collaboration and mutual encouragement, while celebrating faith and traditions.

Music enriches each child individually. Through high-quality teaching, children develop creativity, resilience, and confidence as performers and composers. Listening, reflecting, and responding to music allows them to deepen their critical and cultural awareness, while ensemble playing and group singing encourage teamwork and trust.

At Saint Mary’s, music ‘feeds the *soul* of our community’, enriches worship, supports learning across the curriculum, and nurtures the values of joy, respect, and togetherness underpinning all we do. The music curriculum reflects the strong sense of family running through this community. Children can create and explore music together, support one another, and celebrate shared achievements. Music is more than just a subject – it is a joyful and unifying experience strengthening relationships, nurturing confidence, and bringing the school family closer together.

Through singing, performing, and composing in a safe/supportive environment, every child is valued, and every voice is heard – pupils can develop their musical skills and a lifelong **love of music**, rooted in the joy of belonging to a caring community.

The music curriculum at Saint Mary’s is based on the **Charanga Schemes of Work** with children from **EYFS to Year 6**. In addition, pupils develop their singing and listening skills supported by the Charanga SOW. At least 60 minutes are dedicated each week to curriculum music at Saint Mary’s within the classroom and dedicated singing assembly time.

It is our vision that every pupil deserves to shine through music. Lessons are adapted to enable a child to reach their best. Some demonstrate extraordinary musical talent that must be nurtured and celebrated. Teaching must be inclusive, imaginative, and ambitious, allowing every learner to explore, create, and grow.

At Saint Mary’s, pupils can learn and play a variety of instruments through whole-class ensemble teaching, enabling pupils to develop instrumental skills collaboratively, equipping them with the skills and enthusiasm to participate in choirs, orchestras, bands, or other ensembles in the future. Classes also participate in a whole-class instrumental project over the course of a term as they journey through school.

At Saint Mary’s we are proud to maintain our partnership with our local music education hub, the Lincolnshire Music Service. Through this partnership, we receive support for elements of our whole-class instrumental teaching (delivered in collaboration with LMS), as well as the provision of individual instrumental lessons (see Part B: Extra-Curricular Music).

Part B: Co-curricular music

- Opportunities for pupils to sing and make music: choirs, ensembles and bands

- How pupils can progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Piano Lessons: Individual piano tuition delivered weekly 1:1 by a highly skilled tutor. Pupils develop musical ability, discipline, and confidence and can work towards accredited music examinations. (A modest fee applies, payable directly via ParentPay)

Children who participate in this scheme develop musical talent and strengthen their skills of perseverance, concentration, and creativity. Their performances contribute to school events, enrich the community's cultural and foster pride.

We are committed to broadening access to musical education and will seek to reintroduce additional instrumental lessons as determined by pupil interest.

School Groups:

Saint Mary's **School Choir** performed in a variety of settings, bringing music, joy, and connection to diverse audiences. In September 2025, we established **Saint Mary's Rhythm and Voices** in Key Stage 2 to strengthen partnerships with local community groups.

Academic Year 24/25/26 we are continuing to develop our **School Choir** by merging with **Saint Mary's Rhythm and Voices**, creating a vibrant and inclusive ensemble. Pupils will perform regularly within the local community, share their music at events and venues that bring people together. This will showcase the pupils' talents, strengthen wider community links, foster intergenerational connections and enhance the area's cultural life.

Some of our pupils performed at the **O2 Arena in London** as part of the **Young Voices 2024 Choir** after successfully auditioning at the start of the school year. Saint Mary's represented at **Young Voices 2025** at the **Sheffield Arena**.

In preparation, the **School Choir** rehearses weekly, learns a wide repertoire of songs, to prepare for upcoming events - this nurtures teamwork, discipline, and a love of music, leading to high standard performances.

Community Events:

Pupils participate in local competitions where they can demonstrate creativity and skill – **Boston's Got Talent** (2nd place 2024; 1st place 2025). Their performances were thoughtfully designed to highlight the challenges faced by children, including bullying, allowing pupils to explore social themes through music, and showcase artistic abilities within the wider community.

Whole-School Singing Assemblies:

Saint Mary's weekly **Whole-School Singing Assemblies** provide an inclusive space for all pupils to develop their vocal technique/skills within a regular, dedicated time. Pupils learn a range of **Songs 6** (rounds, call/response, actions, clapping to the beat, varied styles of music), **musical terminology** (forte, piano, legato, staccato, crescendo, diminuendo) and **liturgical music/hymns** for Mass and Celebration of the Word.

Through these initiatives, Saint Mary's offers a vibrant and engaging music education, nurtures talent, promotes personal and spiritual growth, and strengthens community connections. Music at St Mary's is a source of **joy** and a route for pupils to live out the values of: **faith, compassion, and service.**

Part C: Musical Experiences

- Participation in Liturgy
- Participation in Performances/Collective Worship/Concerts/Shows
- Visiting Live Performances

At Saint Mary's, we aim to nurture a lifelong love of music as part of our Catholic mission. Pupils are encouraged to discover and share their talents; creativity, confidence, and joy are fostered while deepening pupils' appreciation of the power of music to inspire, connect, and give glory to God.

In addition, we work closely with the whole school to support liturgy and enhance worship through song at our local Catholic Church. Pupils participate in celebrating key feasts and events throughout the academic year, ensuring that music is central to the spiritual and cultural life of our school community.

Live Performances:

In **Year 5**, pupils can experience a **London West End Musical**. Recently pupils enjoyed productions of: **The Lion King** and **Matilda**, offering them a chance to witness a professional performance of the highest standard.

Saint Mary's welcomes **Local Theatre Companies** into school to perform on important themes, including environmental issues and sustainability, helping pupils to connect the arts with current and meaningful topics. Pupils participate in a practical workshop, where they develop their own musical skills and explore cross-curricular links, e.g. storytelling, drama, and movement.

The whole school experiences a **Pantomime** each year where pupils delight in the music, drama, and interactive songs, encouraging participation, joy, and a shared sense of community.

Saint Mary's involvement in **Young Voices**, gives the pupils an extraordinary opportunity to perform a diverse repertoire of songs from a range of genres and historical periods in front of a huge audience. This inspires confidence, teamwork, a love of music as well as a memory that will stay with them for years to come.

At Saint Mary's, music plays a central role in celebrating both our faith and our school community. All children have the opportunity to perform in a musical production during the school year:

- Advent Term, KS1 Musical Nativity for Parents/Carers and the local community
- KS2 Carol Concert
- Easter Term, Years 3, 4, and 5 Musical Easter Play
- End of Year 6, pupils are given the chance to perform in their final year of primary school, marking a celebratory culmination of their musical journey at Saint Mary's.

Throughout the school year, pupils perform in class and make music during key events, assemblies, and celebrations. These experiences develop pupils' confidence, while they take joy in collaborative musical expression.

As a Catholic school, music forms an integral part of our liturgy and worship. Pupils are regularly afforded the opportunity to sing during School Masses/Liturgies, as well as during 'Celebration of the Word' sessions in classrooms and assemblies. They select appropriate music to accompany their class's prayer and reflection time, fostering a prayerful and contemplative atmosphere that supports both spiritual engagement and communal worship.

In the future

Looking ahead, we are committed to nurturing and expanding our strong musical tradition, strengthening partnerships within the community, and creating new opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful and enriching musical experiences. We aim to cultivate talent, confidence, and creativity, while celebrating the joy of music as a gift from God and a way to bring our school and wider community together.

We plan to:

1. Ensure that our music curriculum inspires creativity, curiosity, and excellence, offering every pupil opportunity to explore, perform, and develop their talents through diverse styles, collaborative projects, and engaging experiences both in school and within the wider community.
2. Maintain our termly school performances to ensure that all children in the school have the chance to perform live each year.
3. Continue to strengthen the links between our partners, other schools and the local community to ensure regular additional musical experiences and opportunities for our children.
4. Increase the overall uptake of individual instrumental tuition.
5. Develop links with the local Catholic Church that enables Saint Mary's Rhythm and Voices to support the liturgy and enhancing worship through song, ensuring that music is central to both the spiritual and cultural life of our school community.
6. Explore opportunities for enrichment and challenge to develop aural skills, learn by ear, and explore more advanced musical techniques.

Further information (optional)

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.

Our local music hub, the Lincolnshire Music Service has a variety of musical opportunities that they make available to children each year.