

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

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic Year covering this summary	2026-2027
Summary published	09/26
Summary to be reviewed	09/27
School Music Lead	Miss C Cox
SLT Member with responsibility for Music (if different)	Mrs L Gleed-Thornley
Local Music Hub	OLOL Music Services

A summary of how St 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 St 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

The National Curriculum (2014) describes music as "a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity." At St Mary's, music plays an important role in school life, enriching worship, building community and developing pupils' creativity, confidence and self-expression.

At St Mary's, music enriches both learning and worship and plays a central role in our school community. Through singing, performing, composing and listening, pupils develop creativity, confidence, resilience and self-expression. Shared musical experiences foster a sense of belonging, bringing children together to celebrate faith, culture and tradition, while encouraging teamwork, reflection and mutual support. Within a nurturing and inclusive environment, every child is valued, every voice is heard, and all pupils are encouraged to develop their talents and a lifelong love of music.

Music is taught through a bespoke curriculum developed by the school in partnership with OLOL Music Services. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure clear progression in musical knowledge and skills from EYFS to Year 6, while reflecting the needs and interests of our pupils. Specialist music tutors deliver one hour of music teaching per week for

each key stage across three half terms of the academic year. This rotational model enables all pupils to access high-quality specialist tuition throughout the year.

In addition to curriculum lessons, pupils sing daily through collective worship and participate in fortnightly singing assemblies where they develop vocal technique, musical understanding and performance skills. Music also contributes to wider learning across the curriculum and plays a central role in the liturgical life of the school.

Our music curriculum is inclusive and ambitious. All pupils are encouraged to perform, compose, listen and respond to music, developing confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music. Teaching is adapted to enable every child to succeed, while pupils with particular musical talents are supported to develop their abilities further.

We are continuing to develop our partnership with OLOL Music Services to further strengthen curriculum provision, specialist teaching and wider musical opportunities for our pupils.

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)

Violin Lessons

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:

St Mary's **School Choir** has grown significantly over the last year, with over 50 children singing together weekly. The choir provides pupils with opportunities to develop their confidence vocal skills and enjoyment of singing, alongside performing at a range of school events and local community occasions throughout the year, bringing music, joy, and connection to diverse audiences.

Following significant demand from pupils, we are excited to launch a KS1 Choir in September 2026. This will provide our younger pupils with the opportunity to develop their love of singing, build confidence and musical skills, and experience the joy of performing as part of an ensemble. We look forward to providing our KS1 singers with a range of performance opportunities throughout the year.

We hope to give both our choirs the opportunity to 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.

In recent years, 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. It is planned that St Mary's will again be represented at **Young Voices 2027/28** 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. The choir is also in regular attendance at Boston's Christmas Festival, which they opened in 2025.

Whole-School Singing Assemblies:

St Mary's fortnightly 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 (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, St 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 St 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, Matilda and Wicked offering them a chance to witness a professional performance of the highest standard.

St 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.

Our pupils are invited to attend theatre productions at a range of local secondary schools, giving them the opportunity to experience live music, drama and performance in a professional setting. These experiences broaden our pupils' cultural horizons, inspire creativity and help them to develop an appreciation and understanding the performing arts.

St 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 St 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 St 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. Launch and develop the new KS1 Choir

- Establish a thriving KS1 Choir with at least two performance opportunities during the year.
- Provide transition opportunities into the KS2 choir.

2. Reintroduce Wider Instrumental Provision

- Survey pupils and parents to identify demand for new instruments such as guitar, keyboard, ukulele or brass.
- Pilot an additional instrumental programme through OLOL Music Services.

3. Develop School Performance Ensembles

- Create opportunities for pupils to perform in ensembles, worship groups or instrumental groups.
- Encourage pupils receiving tuition to perform regularly in assemblies and liturgies.

4. Support SEND and Disadvantaged Pupils

- Increase participation in co-curricular music from disadvantaged and SEND pupils.
- Identify and support pupils who may benefit from financial assistance or adapted provision.

5. Greater Collaboration Across the Trust

- Participate in at least one trust-wide musical event or festival.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to perform alongside children from other schools.

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.