

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

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	4/07/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Jenny McGarry
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	-
Name of local music hub	Royal Greenwich Music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Southwark Singing Programme

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.

- Music planning is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and is then built on and extended by the music lead. We take into consideration the cohort of children and cross curricular links and other world/religious links as often as possible. The curriculum is divided into three sections: Listening and Music Appreciation, Performance and Composition. These all feature the relevant theory and key skills are continuously revisited and built upon throughout the year and in the following years. The children receive at least 30 minutes curriculum music per week and in addition a 30 minute hymn practise, detailed more below. The music lessons and hymn practices are taught by the specialist music teacher.

- For the coming year 2024-2025 the planning is changing to incorporate the addition of our new midi keyboards. New planning is currently being updated with additional information regarding children with SEND including a child who is blind.
- There are many opportunities already for singing. We have weekly hymn practise in key stages lasting 30 minutes each. During this session we practise hymns and songs but also work on vocal technique. Singing is also taught in a variety of ways during curriculum lessons where appropriate. Year 3 also have an extra 30 minute weekly singing lesson from an outside tutor as part of the Southwark Singing Programme. During this session they learn songs for the liturgy as well as additional vocal technique.
- We have a range of instruments, both tuned and untuned for use during our curriculum music lessons. These are used continuously to resource the children's composition and performance work but also to assist with theory aspects of music where appropriate, such as rhythm and pulse. The use of braille on a number of instruments and colour coding support children with SEND.
- Year 5 currently have 1 year of Samba tuition from an outside tutor. They receive 45 minutes per week and perform twice. From January 2025 this will change to whole class ukulele lessons instead. We want the children to become more familiar with tuned instruments knowledge of chords. This will be taught as by the music specialist teacher.
- In addition to the above, we have recently purchased a class set of midi keyboards. This will enable whole class keyboard skills to take place and will also provide an excellent resource for composition, performance and theory such as formal written notation. We will also be able to increase the children's knowledge of using music technology in preparation for Secondary School.

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.

- Our school offers a range of instruments that can be learnt outside the classroom as either one to one or small group tuition. Currently we have

peripatetic teachers for a range of brass instruments, flute, clarinet, guitar, violin and piano. Tuition is charged to parents directly at a discounted rate for in school, as opposed to if they were learning these instruments outside school. Pupil Premium children can have lessons which are paid for in full by the school. We also have instruments that the children can hire for a very small annual fee. This is currently open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

ABRSM exams are available where appropriate for children.

- We currently have a school orchestra which children can join once they have had a half term of lessons on a particular instrument. The orchestra play at many school events and are working towards outside events.
- We also have a guitar club which takes place at lunchtime and a brass band, which again takes place during lunch. Both of these play at the annual school concerts and many are also part of the school orchestra.
- We have a Chamber Choir consisting of children from years 3, 4, 5 & 6. They rehearse for an hour a week after school. This is an auditioned choir to target those children with particular skill in singing. They sing challenging music in 3 parts and deepen their vocal technique. They perform many times through the year at event both in school and externally, including at prestigious venues such as, Blackheath Halls, The Oval Cricket Ground, St George's Cathedral, Woolwich Town Hall and many more.
- Plans for 2024-2025 include to start a Year 2 lunchtime singing club and a lunchtime beginner's keyboard club both taught by the music specialist teacher. Initially this club will be for children that want to learn the keyboard or who teachers think will benefit from this in a nurturing way and particularly if a child is from a disadvantaged background. This will be a free club.
- There are also plans in progress for a Rock Band to be led by our guitar peripatetic teacher. This will begin early in the new academic year.
- The music groups and ensembles led by the music specialist are all free of charge.

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.

- As detailed above, the school has weekly hymn practices to focus on the children's singing ability. This takes place in Key Stages.
- Weekly assemblies give opportunities for children to sing together.
- On a number of occasions, the school orchestra and choir have sung during assemblies for their peers.
- Whole School events and celebrations such as the Crowning of Our Lady are enhanced by the singing and playing of our school ensembles, as well as whole school singing.
- Larger school productions take place at Christmas with the infant Nativity (including EYFS, Y1 & Y2) and the Year 5&6 end of year summer production are a highlight. Productions have included, High School Musical, Moana, Aladdin and most recently Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. These are quality full-scale productions. The rest of the children at the school are able to watch these performances.
- Our nursery children also perform Christmas songs for their families.
- Annual Christmas and Summer music concerts give the opportunity for those learning instruments outside the classroom to showcase what they have achieved.
- Outside school, performance opportunities such as Year 6 singing carols for a retirement village, a number of visits to sing at St George's Cathedral (both choir and year groups) through the Southwark Singing Programme and many choir performances and competitions enhance the children's knowledge and skill as a performer. Many of the choir performances have been detailed above. We also sing at our local Church on many occasions to lead and enhance the mass.

In the future

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

- New planning across all year groups to incorporate our new instruments hopes to hone in on and develop the children's key skills and musical knowledge further. Our new resources of the midi keyboards and ukuleles will support the children in numerous ways, including those children with SEND. The use of individual headphones and colour coding/braille will enable all children to be included. This will be detailed on the planning.
- Improved use of music technology for Upper Key Stage 2 children, preparing them better for Secondary School. Also using this as a way to record their compositions and performances.

- The Rock Band, Keyboard Club and Year 2 choir will begin in the new academic year.
- Across the school the singing focus will be an improved, unforced, smooth tone and clear diction to create a more unified sound.
- Plans to visit a London Concert Hall to watch a professional concert.
- Plans for our peripatetic Staff to play a small concert for an assembly so children can experience the instruments they can learn at a professional level.

Further information (optional)

We have good links with the local music hub of Royal Greenwich. The music teacher regularly attends training events run by the hub and termly music lead meetings. We take part in the Singing Spectacular every year which is run by the hub. We have also performed through the hub at the Do the Right Thing Awards. We will continue this strong relationship in the coming academic year.

We also have good links with St George's Cathedral in Southwark which will continue in the next academic year.