Music development plan summary:

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	26-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Alice Brown
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Priscilla Jordan (Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock steady

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's, we have timetabled music lessons in KS2 to enable the pupils to learn the recorder as well as music appreciation in every class during the day as part of the other curriculum subjects, as well as music being part of the blocked curriculum.

In Music We use the Lancashire music scheme for our lessons which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music. When using the scheme and its progressive week-by

week lessons, we are guaranteeing to be meeting all the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and progress is evident through observations, video recordings kept on one drive, the class music book and our progression documents. Discussions with children have demonstrated an increasing knowledge of key music vocabulary being recalled. Observations have shown all pupils engaged and active during the lessons, including SEND and PP. We have a wide range of instruments that can be used in the lessons and our curriculum. Our music appreciation ensures a variety of music and genres are listened to and discussed. Teachers are confident with musical elements and teaching children how to listen and appreciate a piece of music.

At St Mary's, we offer children from EYFS to Year 6 music lessons through the blocked curriculum- the other half hour is singing with the headteacher or music lead on Wednesday. In singing assemblies a wide range of songs are learnt and performed. The children take part with confidence and enthusiasm. In EYFS, music is a planned part of continuous provision and children also sing nursery rhymes from 'Little Wandle' and sing to learn other parts of the curriculum- such as Geography. The teachers also additional teach music in the blocked curriculum (a week of music lessons at least x2 a year.). This also ensures that teachers develop their music knowledge.

In each year group, children have a different focus instrument (EYFS, Y1 and Y2 percussion instruments and Years 3-6 each have a recorder) that they use to cover the strands of the music curriculum including performing, composing and listening.

In EYFS the children learn nursery rhymes, number songs and well- known songs weekly and sing these in small groups, whole class and on a 1:1 basis with adults as part of Expressive art and design. The children have access to a range of instruments and sound-makers throughout continuous provision to create their own music. Planning, policy and progression documents are reviewed and updated yearly. St Mary's is also a Music Mark Bronze award school. Our full curriculum can be found here: Music - St Mary's Primary School - A Catholic Voluntary Academy

Music is assessed formally twice a year on the school's Arbor system. The music teacher and link music Governor also assess the pupil's progress on the recorder. This can lead to talented pupils having further opportunities and also progressing from the recorder to another instrument. In the singing assembly, the music lead and headteacher assess children in their performance.

In the 24 25 Academic year: music was a high priority for whole school cpd. The Music teacher spent ten minutes a week in the whole staff briefing teaching all staff including teaching assistants music terminology and effective music teaching. This continued in the 25 26 Academic year- with whole staff briefings looking at music vocabulary. This improved staff confidence as seen in the music folders and in the whole class teaching of music, which is blocked into each term's planning and in pupil voice.. There will be further whole staff cpd in music in the forthcoming years in whole staff briefings. The music leads attend the Academy and Leicestershire music hub networks to cascade training to staff. The school also uses the SEND inclusion music hub training from county and the weekly choir send workshops in the magic room.

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.

‘Extra-curricular music’ or ‘Music tuition, choirs and ensembles’.

At St Mary’s we have many opportunities for the children to develop their music skills.

We have an extensive range of music tuition available via our peripatetic teachers, with a wide range of instruments being learnt, these include; piano, Guitars, Ukuleles, and further recorder lessons. These are offered to children in Year 1 to Year 6. These children are then encouraged to join ensembles outside the school.

For many years, at St Mary’s, we have taken part in the Menphys Christmas concert with the other 22 schools in our Academy at Demontfort Hall, also in Big Sings through the Leicestershire music hub with other schools in Loughborough at the Town Hall. Throughout the year our children enjoy taking part in a Christmas production, music performances and singing within class assemblies which are performed to parents.

Weekly small group and one-to-one lessons are offered by Rock steady and an opportunity to form bands. These are paid for by the parents should they wish their child/ren to partake. Our LAC and PP children are also offered lessons in conjunction with Rock steady and the external teachers. These lessons are funded using money from the children’s PEP and PP funding.

Children in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to join the school choir which rehearses at lunchtimes or in an after- school club with the music leader. Holiday clubs are advertised in school as well as details/flyers sent home to adults about other after school music opportunities in the locality.

Pupils have the opportunity to gain music qualifications, through the Rock steady performance and in the piano/ guitar/ ukulele.

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.

‘Musical events’ or ‘Musical performances’.

At St Mary’s, we utilise strong links with the Leicestershire music hub and our visiting music teachers/ Rock steady to encourage instrumentalists to progress to performing in

ensembles. Parents and carers are fully supportive of music making and we have a good turn-out at productions and the end of year whole school music performance to celebrate the music learning in school by classes, groups or individuals. Music is played and enjoyed by children and parents and carers on the Friday Achievement assembly, with pupils playing happy birthday to the children each week on the Piano and playing instruments when parents wait for the classes to come in. Music is played and appreciated every morning in school with a range of themes and genres. At St Mary's, we have developed a good link with a folk band and mini-orchestra where musicians have worked with our children and also performed live in school.

We have promoting music and signposting parents and carers to music opportunities.

Each term the children who have been in the Rock steady bands, perform to the school and parents. In June there is the yearly celebration of music in a whole school performance to parents, where pupils show their music learning.

Throughout the year, children have a number of opportunities to join in large-scale performances both in and outside of school, including ensemble pieces on the recorder and guitar. Children sing regularly as a whole school in the weekly singing assembly and in special/religious event celebrations such as the Junior Carol concert in church, the nativities, Easter and Harvest. Reception children learn a nativity with 6-8 songs and perform this alongside the nativity to parents. At the end of the year the children perform a musical showcase from reception to year 6 where they learn 2 songs and perform them to parents. The school also hosts a talent show which culminates in a grand final including all school.

The school also performs in the local community, with local schools. To raise money for charities the school performs in local shops singing carols and Easter songs. The school also performs in the local care home, which has strong links with the school, due to fortnightly visits.

Pupils can take their class recorder home to practise.

In the future

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

- As we have gained a music bronze award, St Mary's will explore how to gain the Silver and Gold award and continue working towards this goal.
- To further create and strengthen links between the schools in the St Thomas Aquinas Academy and links with the local grammar schools to offer more opportunities for performance and collaboration between our children.

- to build on our music progress by re-evaluating the current curriculum to upskill inline with the model music curriculum. We are going to continue to develop children's composition skills and the notation of this.
- to develop a school choir and children's performance skills with more opportunities to perform throughout the year, with our local music hub and in the community.
- we will continue to provide our staff with CPD to continue to develop their confidence and subject knowledge.

- the class with the highest attendance each week gets to choose the music which is played every morning from Tuesday to the following Monday, particularly at the start of Achievement assemblies.
- Continue to develop the school choirs and teaching of the recorder to KS1 and not just KS2
- To develop a school orchestra.
- During our annual International week/ (in June)/ other faith weeks/ Pentecost week the pupils learn about a country. They listen to and discuss the music as well as having the opportunity to learn songs and play pieces linked to that country.

Further information (optional)

Bronze music Award and plan towards Silver and gold

Also to gain the Silver Artsmark

The school will work on:

- The curriculum having wider breadth and ambition for music.
- Widen opportunities with more instrument tuition being offered.
- The Music Lead will look at the MMC and compare the outcomes against the outcomes set out in the Lancashire Scheme.
- The pupils are taught to integrate new musical knowledge and learning and apply to different musical context and genres.
- The resources chosen to support musical learning are demanding and chosen from a wide range of genres and cultures. They match the aims of the curriculum in being coherently planned and sequenced to develop secure musical knowledge and skills.
- Teachers ensure that pupils are learning to play and sing by ear and from memory as well as using a range of notations. ICT is used skilfully and imaginatively to support pupils' musical development.
- The school will play a significant role in helping to develop and exemplify good and innovative practice on a local and national level. The school will be a valued partner in the local music hub. Music teachers will be actively involved with national subject associations and online communities, as well as the St Thomas Aquinas Music hub.
- Pupils from all starting points will make substantial and sustained progress in their musical learning. They develop excellent knowledge, musical understanding and skills. The school will particularly focus on SEND and PP pupils.
- Teachers' musical subject, pedagogical and pedagogical content knowledge consistently build and develops over time. This consistently leads to improvements in the teaching of the music curriculum.