Music development plan – St Marys Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sharon Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Thurrock Music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Royal Opera House & Thurrock Trail Blazers

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 understand that music has no boundaries and we endeavour to provide opportunities that will broaden their horizons at St Mary's and beyond our school gates.

Please see our intent for more. St Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Music (stmarystilbury.co.uk).

To achieve his for our pupils and families, we are informed by Charanga's Model Music Curriculum as non-specialist music educators from Year 1 to 6 and in EYFS we are informed by the Development Matters non-statutory guide.

The core principles for music at St Mary's are:

- Children will develop their skills in inquiry and critical thinking.

● Children will begin to feel and learn about social connectivity.

- Children will learn about and deepen their musical understanding and connect this with their place in their community.
- Children will become globally aware and understand what it means to become a citizen of the world.
- Songs and singing lie at the heart of the learning process.
- An authentic musical experience is at the heart of musical learning.
- At each age and stage of development, musical learning is drawn from engaging with the songs in each unit.
- To help children to understand and connect with different styles of music from various cultures, particularly where cultures intersect.
- Children will gain an understanding of historical and cultural contexts related to music.
- Children will form their own musical opinions and learn to make their own musical decisions.
- The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:
    - Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
    - Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
    - Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Music takes place weekly, in short manageable chunks in our dedicated music room or in well equipped classrooms. Lessons are timetabled weekly to ensure the inter-related dimensional skills are developed, embedded and progress over time. The children can see their progress from each unit and articulate the skills taught with the use of key vocabulary.

In addition to this, our children enjoy a weekly half an hour, whole school Musical Worship where we bring the children on a journey into the history and story behind the selection of songs we sing.

Implementation

EYFS

Music in EYFS - We teach music in Foundation Stage as an integral part of their development in all areas of their Early Learning Goals. They are immersed in song through stories, nursery rhymes linked to and building on their learning in each topic. Embracing their culture and interests helps us to ensure music is accessible to all and can build on their knowledge and understanding of the world we live in.

KS1 and KS2

Our music curriculum endeavours to enhance our children's understanding of the Interrelated dimensions of music.

Lesson outline:

In years 1-6, each unit develops the love for and of music in each child by exploring musicianship and musical elements in various ways:

- Understanding Music
- Listen and respond where children are introduced to a range of musical styles, genres, artists, composes and creators that link across their musical journeys. Such as hip-hop, jazz, 20th and 21st century orchestral styles.
- Learn to Sing the Song where they learn to sing as part of a group, in unison, on pitch and in time, as well as in different time signatures and parts.
- Play Your Instruments with the Song using whole class glockenspiels!
- Improvise with the Song
- Composition - Compose with the Song, create a Graphic Score (KS1) Compose with a Theme, Music Notepad, Quick beats (KS2 only)
- Perform the Song

Our Year 3 class learn the ukelele, our peripatetic instrument through our collaboration with the Thurrock Music Hub as a whole class ensemble in our dedicated music room.

There is a progression of skills using the glockenspiels from year R – 6 with the consistent uses of notation and keys. The aim is to provide the foundation of transferrable skills towards our KS3 ambitions for the children.

Adaptation - We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Considering their starting points and backgrounds, giving us a holistic view of genres, musical concepts they may or may not experience often.
- Assessing the skills they show during lessons and providing challenges or simplicity when preforming, playing instruments and singing.

SEND – Music is for all people and can be an amazing sensory experience for many of our pupils. Adopting a positive and proactive approach in music ensures that children with SEND can express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music. For pupils where music is their safe place, tailored timetables enable them to enjoy 'music time' moments focusing on sensory and personal development.

The clearly sequenced lessons and units support the areas of the National Curriculum for music: listening, singing, playing composing, improvising and performing. There are opportunities for end-of-unit and end-of-year assessment. Each activity associated with a song can be assessed at any point over the course of a unit.

Pupils at St Mary's are privileged to have a plethora of opportunities to sing, play and perform throughout the school day and year. Be it through transitions, learning a new skill in subject areas, walking around the school or our responses to the gospel reading. It is integrated into our day, and our music lessons enhance this further for all pupils.

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.

In our desire to develop musicians beyond our school gates, children are given a range of opportunities to play musical instruments. Our collaboration with the Thurrock Trail Blazers allows the children to learn the ukelele at a subsidised price.

Children have the opportunity to play in the Rock Steady Band. Pupils aged 4-11 can develop their desire to learn a tuned instrument or enhance the sounds of their voices at a cost. Since the start of Rock Steady, the numbers of children inspired to grow as musicians increases.

Though not all our children opt into being a part of the Rock Steady Band, all our children are involved in the celebration of these pupils during their concerts each term! Providing them an opportunity to experience a live concert and be inspired by their peers.

Our KS2 choir come together annually as we join with St Lukes Hospice during the Christmas season, to raise the spirit of our community through songs at Lakeside Shopping Centre. In relation to this, our Year 5 host a 'Carols by candlelight's' service in our local church and work collaboratively to raise funds for our local charities. We rehearse for half an hour before, providing time for staff and children to rest on a high note. This takes place in our dedicated music room, providing the environment needed

to build on the skills taught. This helps extend the curriculum to enhance singing and performing for varying audiences.

Throughout the year, pupils in year 2 assemble to partake in a trust wide infant music festival while year 5 join in the junior music festival. This gives all pupils the experience of singing with a range of voices, celebrating the joy that music can bring when we collaborate.

An annual event for our year 6 pupils, Young Voices, takes place in the iconic O2 arena, where they join with other pupils and artists to watch, sing and immerse themselves into the arts scene with the support of their parents.

Music does not start and end on special occasions. It is woven into every subject area to help retain, revive and inspire our pupils and staff throughout the year. Many of which add songs to their playlists at home, humming through the corridors and singing in the playground.

Thurrock Music Education Hub

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 a catholic school, music is a way of showing thanks, praise, reflecting and celebrating. We draw upon the skills of the interrelated dimensions of music.

As we walk through the provision of music within our school we know that:

Our Early Years and KS1, prepare to prepare for the nativity by performing to the school, then to parents and carers.

Our KS2 choir come together annually as we join with St Lukes Hospice during the Christmas season, to raise the spirit of our community through songs at Lakeside Shopping Centre.

Our YEAR 5 hold a carols service in our local church performing in the community and the purpose of the songs. They also sing around our school gates to raise money to help support our local charities. We rehearse for half an hour before, providing time for staff and children to rest on a high note. This takes place in our dedicated music room, providing the environment needed to build on the skills taught.

Throughout the year, pupils in year 2 assemble to partake in a trust wide infant music festival. In year 4, the pupils capture and recount the passion week, through repertoire that reflects this pivotal moment. While year 5 join in the junior music festival. This gives all pupils the experience of singing with a range of voices, celebrating the joy that music can bring when we collaborate.

An annual event for our year 6 pupils takes place in the iconic O2 arena, where they join with other pupils and artists to watch, sing and immerse themselves into the arts scene with the support of their parents.

At the beginning of every academic year, we take part in the CCT new term mass, at Brentwood Cathedral. Selected pupils with pupils from other school in the CCT. Developing the skill of singing as part of a group and voice projection.

In the future

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

In 2026-27, we continue to provide an adapted curriculum, reflecting the context and needs of our pupils. We endeavour to enrich our pupils with a range of musical experiences with the hopes of each year group experiencing live ballet and orchestra in the famous city of London. The aim is that by the end of their musical journeys at St Mary's, each child will have watched a musical, will sing along with an orchestra, tell a story through song and support their peers in their musical ventures.

Collaboration with schools to build the singing offer for pupils to help them deliver with confidence and with others in harmony and unity.

As a catholic school, music is a way of showing thanks, praise, reflecting and celebrating. We draw upon the skills of the interrelated dimensions of music.

As we journey through music as a school, our pupils will continue to experience the following:

Our Early Years and KS1, prepare to prepare for the nativity by performing to the school, then to parents and carers.

Our KS2 choir come together annually as we join with St Lukes Hospice during the Christmas season, to raise the spirit of our community through songs at Lakeside Shopping Centre.

In relation to this, our YEAR 5 hold a carols service in our local church performing in the community and the purpose of the songs. Suggested they sing around our school gates to help support our local charities. We rehearse for half an hour before, providing time for staff and children to rest on a high note. This takes place in our dedicated music room, providing the environment needed to build on the skills taught.

Throughout the year, pupils in year 2 assemble to partake in a trust wide infant music festival. In year 4, the pupils capture and recount the passion week, through repertoire that reflects this pivotal moment. While year 5 join in the junior music festival. This gives all pupils the experience of singing with a range of voices, celebrating the joy that music can bring when we collaborate.

An annual event for our year 6 pupils take place in the iconic O2 arena, where they join with other pupils and artists to watch, sing and immerse themselves into the arts scene with the support of their parents.

At the beginning of every academic year, we take part in the CCT new term mass, at Brentwood Cathedral. Selected pupils with pupils from other school in the CCT. Developing the skill of singing as part of a group and voice projection.

Further information (optional)

Thurrock music hub

Thurrock Music Education Hub

Royal opera house

Royal Opera House National Schools Program (rbo.org.uk)

Rocksteady

Trail blazers