

Music development plan summary: St Mary's RC Primary School, Haslingden

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Berni Booth
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lancashire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

St Mary's Primary School publishes details of the music curriculum on the school website. The intention is first and foremost to help children to feel they are musical and develop a lifelong love of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding the children need in order to become confident performers, composers and listeners. Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities. Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements outlined in the National Curriculum (2014) and aligns with the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (2021).

Curriculum music lessons are informed by the Model Music Curriculum (non-statutory guidance for music teaching) and provide pupils with opportunities to:

- Listen to and evaluate music from diverse time periods and cultures.
- Learn how to create and control sound using their voices, as well as tuned and untuned instruments.
- Understand how music is communicated through various notation systems.
- Improvise and compose music.
- Perform musically in front of audiences of varying sizes.

Structured around the interconnected aspects of music, our curriculum aligns with numerous recommendations in the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum.

EYFS:

Children in the Early Years learn best through play and practical application of skills. Our Music scheme has been designed to ensure that not only are children accessing relevant areas of the curriculum but that they remain highly involved and engaged while doing so. The lessons in each unit of study involve a blend of active games, independent tasks and opportunities to perform, with many of the sessions suitable for both indoor and outdoor learning. The age-appropriate lessons ensure that children are seamlessly moved from one activity to the next, without time to disengage from learning. The play-based lessons focus on developing a wide range of musical skills, as well as developing an awareness and appreciation of different genres of music from around the world. Together, the sessions build a strong foundation of knowledge needed for music lessons in Key stage 1.

In EYFS the main focus is singing and rhythm and there is one short discrete music lesson which increases in length throughout the year. In addition, singing takes place throughout the school day, often linked to other learning opportunities, such as the singing of number rhymes. All our pupils are taught to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses; sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody; they explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

KS1 and KS2

Within our curriculum music in KS1 and KS2, we teach all aspects of National Curriculum music.

Our Music scheme follows a proven approach called a 'spiral curriculum'. Pupils revisit topics, progress in difficulty, and build on prior learning each year. This helps them gain a deeper understanding and greater proficiency in music learning.

Curriculum music in our school is taught for at least one hour each week in KS1 and KS2; this includes a 30- minute weekly music lesson. Our rich curriculum offer also means that there is a significant time for the teaching and learning of music outside the discrete lesson e.g. Performances, Practices and Rehearsals.

In EYFS, KS1 and KS2, the curriculum map ensures that each cohort's curriculum offer will include the teaching of singing and opportunities for listening/appraising, composing and performing.

In KS2, there will be a balance of playing, improvising and composition across the year; some music units focus on one element more than another.

From September 2024 all children in Y4 will learn to play the recorder.

Our music curriculum map (on the school website) details how we teach music each half term and ensure that we teach age appropriate singing, listening, performing, reading notation, music technology, improvising and composing. Our medium term plans follow the recommendations of the Model Music Curriculum 2014.

In our MTPs we learn about and explore music from different cultures (for example, Samba from Brazil) although this should be developed further.

Singing is a strength of the school. Children sing in curriculum music, in worship, in concerts and school productions. Children sing songs recommended in the Model Music Curriculum, for example, children learn to sing rounds in Y3/4 and increase the range of notes as the pupils get older. The school has professionally trained singers on the staff team and so their expertise is utilised to ensure that the teaching of singing is of the highest quality.

All pupil premium children are fully engaged with curriculum music. All pupils with SEND are able to fully access curriculum music.

We use the following Key resource: Kapow Music.

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.

All our pupils sing tunefully and with confidence in worship; pupils sing to backing tracks.

We use singing to help 'sticky' learning in other subjects through, for example, songs which link to our history topic, songs which help us to learn the names of the oceans and/or continents in geography.

A singing choir led by members of staff (who are professionally trained) meet to sing/practise once a week either at lunch times or after school. Children perform in concerts, in church and in the community (for example with Rossendale Male Voice Choir).

St Mary's offers music tuition in addition to the whole class weekly lesson time. Music tuition is by direct arrangement with 'Rocksteady' who teach private music lessons once a week (paid for by parents). Subsidised tuition is offered to those children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. The school also offers a free choir after school club at certain times of the year.

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.

Developing pupils' love of singing is a key feature of our work and weekly whole school singing practice remains a popular part of our collective worship routines. This enables children to grow their repertoire of a number of different hymns and songs, which are performed throughout the year.

As a Catholic school, music plays a key role in our religious celebrations – for example, as part of our Harvest, Christmas and Easter services. All children perform in a Christmas concert in church. Typically scheduled towards the end of each term, these celebrations provide an opportunity for parents, grandparents; parishioners and governors to join staff in enjoying a range of performances by the pupils. These events are always extremely well attended!

At St Mary's Primary School, we are passionate about providing opportunities for our pupils to share their musical talent with the wider school community and beyond.

All our pupils perform in a school production at least six times during their time at primary school. As well as annual KS1 nativity concerts, the KS2 children take part each year in a grand scale end of year summer production to raise money for our local hospice. There are 3 sold-out performances and they are a highlight of the school calendar.

As well as these performances, there are also whole class performances showing what children have been studying as part of our exciting music curriculum. For example, Class 5 perform songs from World War 2 each year near Remembrance Day for the whole school community. In addition, we also do extra-curricular club performances (including choir) and Rock Band performances by those who partake in this offer.

In partnership with PE we realise the importance of dance and moving expressively to music. Dance is taught as part of our PE curriculum to a range of different musical styles. A specialist dance teacher comes to school and has 3 dance squads across the academic year who perform in shows and competitions.

In addition, pupils are given the opportunity to perform with other schools across a range of special concerts. In 2023-2024, our choir performed (and were finalists) in Last Choir Standing and performed with Rossendale Male Choir for their centenary celebration.

Some of our scheduled theme weeks also provide opportunities for children to learn about the traditions of music across different world cultures and communities. For example, as part of our Black History Week celebrations, visitors from a West African Drum and Dance School visit school to lead workshops with all classes, culminating in a unique performance for parents at the end of the day.

Trips:

KS1 visit Bridgewater Hall Manchester to watch the Halle Orchestra perform a concert.

Y5/6 visit London and this includes a theatre visit which always includes a live orchestra playing instruments as part of the performance.

All children get to visit the theatre to watch a show each Christmas.

Parental contributions, as well as support from an active PTA assist in meeting the costs of these exciting opportunities and where families are unable to support due to financial hardship, the school is committed to meeting shortfalls so that no child is excluded on the grounds of finance.

In the future

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

Provide a framework for the teaching of music to include vocabulary and language structures/sentence stems to ensure knowledge and vocabulary is learned and retained and contribute to our development of oracy.

Continue to monitor the teaching and learning of music to monitor learning, progression and support CPD needs and quality first teaching. Subject leader to provide feedback to SLT/governors.

Look at cost of arranging a whole class instrumental tuition through Lancashire Music Hub for another key stage class to give the children opportunity to learn either keyboard, a brass or string instrument.

Provide opportunities that are more frequent for children who learn instruments to perform to show progress.

To improve our teaching of music technology through the use of Garage Band.

To further increase opportunities for our children to experience and explore music from different cultures beyond what is currently in our curriculum.

Further information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-music-programmes-of-study>

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-creativity-and-culture/children-and-young-people/national-youth-music-organisations>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6061f833d3bf7f5ce1060a90/Model_Music_Curriculum_Full.pdf

<https://www.lancashiremusichub.co.uk/site/>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62bc1242d3bf7f292040d364/The_Power_of_Music_to_Change_Lives.pdf

<https://takeitaway.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/music-dance-scheme>

