

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year this summary covers	2025–2026
Date this summary was published	March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	March 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs R Badenhorst
Name of SLT member responsible for music	Mrs R Akehurst
Name of local music hub	<i>To be confirmed (e.g., Services for Education – Music Service)</i>
Other music education organisations	None currently; partnerships under review

This summary explains how St Mary's provides music education across three key areas—**curriculum music**, **co-curricular music**, and **musical experiences**—and outlines future developments. It is designed to help pupils and parents understand our offer and the support structures in place.

1. Curriculum Music

Curriculum music is delivered weekly to all pupils from EYFS to Year 6. St Mary's follows the **Kapow Primary Music Scheme**, ensuring complete coverage of the National Curriculum and clear progression of skills in singing, listening, composing, improvising, performing and musical notation.

EYFS

Children develop foundational musical skills through the Kapow units:

- *Exploring Sound*
- *Music and Movement*
- *Transport*
- *Big Band*

These units support early communication, physical development, creativity, and confidence.

Key Stage 1 (Years 1–2)

Pupils develop pulse, rhythm, pitch, musical symbols, structure and basic notation through themed units such as:

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- *Keeping the Pulse – My Favourite Things*
- *Sound Patterns – Fairytales*
- *Pitch – Superheroes*
- *Musical Symbols – Under the Sea*
- *Call and Response – Animals*
- *Instruments – Musical Storytelling*

Activities include body percussion, tuned/untuned percussion, singing, and storytelling through music.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3–4)

Children build on foundational skills and explore:

- Ballads
- Singing technique (e.g., Vikings)
- Pentatonic composition (Chinese New Year)
- Improvisation and traditional instruments (India)
- Body & tuned percussion (Rainforests)
- Samba and carnival music
- Musical motifs and transposition

Year 3–4 pupils begin working more independently on composing, combining musical layers, and performing with increased accuracy.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5–6)

Pupils study:

- Composition & notation (Ancient Egypt)
- Blues
- South & West African music
- Holi festival composition
- Theme and variation (Pop Art)
- Baroque
- Composing a Year 6 Leavers' Song

Older pupils deepen their musical vocabulary, refine instrumental techniques, and develop more complex compositions and ensemble work.

2. Co-Curricular Music

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These opportunities help pupils extend their musical education beyond lessons.

Instrumental Tuition

- At present, St Mary's does not host regular peripatetic lessons, but this is under review.
- The school intends to expand access to tuition through the local music hub (e.g., strings, woodwind, guitar, and keyboard).

Choirs and Singing

- Singing is a central part of school life.
- Opportunities include:
 - Whole-school masses and liturgies
 - Hymn practice
 - Nativity and other key stage performances
 - Class assemblies

Clubs and Ensembles (Current / Planned)

- *Currently available:*
 - KS2 Choir
 - Singing opportunities embedded in worship and celebration
- *Planned developments:*
 - Beginner recorder club
 - KS1 Choir

These additions aim to increase participation and broaden musical access.

3. Musical Performances and Experiences

St Mary's provides regular opportunities for pupils to perform and experience live music.

Existing Opportunities

- EYFS & KS1 Nativity performances
- KS2 Christmas Advent Carol Service
- Participation in liturgical singing at Mass and Feast Days
- Class-based end-of-unit performances linked to Kapow units

Visits and Wider Experiences

- Pupils participate in:
 - School liturgies and parish events

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Development Plans

- Establish a yearly school concert (summer or Christmas)
- Partner with local secondary schools to enhance performance opportunities
- Increase visits to professional performances (e.g., Theatres, Norden Farm)

4. Future Plans

Performance & Community Engagement

- Create an annual musical showcase involving all year groups.
- Build partnerships with:
 - Local parish
 - Local secondary schools
 - Wider local arts organisations

Professional Development

- Provide staff CPD through Kapow and local authority resources.
- Support non-specialist teachers to increase confidence in teaching music.

5. Further Information

Parents may find the DfE guidance useful:

Music education: a guide for parents and young people

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>