

Music development plan summary 2024-25: Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Patricia Flaherty
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Services For Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga Music Scheme

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

In line with the national plan for music education, all pupils receive 1 hour of taught music lessons per week. For the majority of our teaching we follow the Charanga Music School scheme which fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum. The scheme provides support for our specialist and non-specialist teachers, ensuring that music is taught progressively and that skills are built upon throughout the year. Interactive resources that can be adapted to suit the needs of learners maximise engagement and allow all pupils to be active within music lessons. On-going CPD is readily available for staff and has been effective in improving teacher confidence and maintaining high expectations for musical learning.

During lessons, pupils have the opportunity to listen and appraise a wide genre of music, exploring the origins, instruments and structure of each piece. Through modelled examples, pupils are encouraged to compose their own pieces of music, developing their use of musical notation as they progress to upper key stage 2. Pupils are given the opportunity to improvise; to express themselves freely and creatively

within the backdrop of a familiar piece of music. Within class sessions and to wider audiences, pupils are given many chances to perform and to watch live performances. In addition to these sessions, Years 3 and 5 take part in the MAC Schools Singing Programme each week. A specialist music teacher leads musical activities and games where pupils can apply their learning in an interactive, engaging environment. Pupils are taught the correct stances and breathing techniques to improve their vocal ability, learning a range of songs that result in a group performance.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Our Key Stage 2 choir is led by a professional musician and all pupils are encouraged to join, with no limit on numbers. Pupils learn a wide range of songs and perform termly in whole-school assemblies as well as having the opportunity to perform at a range of venues. Pupils are also involved in suggesting and choosing songs as we would like our choir performances to be a true reflection of the musical interest our children have.

A Key Stage 1 choir ensemble will be starting this year, with the aim to expose younger children to a wider range of musical genres and begin to take part in more live performances.

We also have a weekly ukulele group, open to pupils in key stages 1 and 2. Pupils learn a range of songs, and often plan during whole-school masses.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children at Our Lady's school love to sing and listen to music. Pupils learn and practise new hymns during weekly hymn practices and sing during weekly masses. Teachers ensure that pupils have a choice over hymn selection and make suggestions when learning new hymns. Music is always a part of our collective worship, whether in the form of a quiet reflective piece or a song for pupils to sing along to. Music is woven into our curriculum and our pupils love to listen to music as they work in other subjects, expanding their musical library and sustaining their enjoyment of music.

Each year, Key Stage 1 perform a nativity where the children sing, dance and perform to a live audience of families and the rest of the school.

Key Stage 2 perform an annual carol concert in the parish church, where they sing a mixture of traditional and contemporary Christmas carols to a live audience of families.

Children in Key stage 2 will take part in Young voices where they learn a range of songs and perform them in a concert venue with a collective of other children from across the locality. They are supported by professionals and the opportunity to visit, experience and perform in a large concert hall.

The children take part in an annual Catholic Life retreat led by One Life music (Lent or Advent) where they get to know God in a deeper way through musical prayer and worship.

EYFS take part in an annual trip to the theatre, combining their literacy learning with music experiences.

Our Key Stage 2 choir perform at a music venue in Digbeth, allowing pupils to experience performing on a real stage in front of a live audience. Parents are invited to attend these performances and there is no admission fee. They also perform at local care homes – bringing their love of music and performance into the local community.

Year 6 annually perform a 'Leavers' Production' in the summer term where they showcase their musical abilities, performing in front of their peers and family members.

In the future

- Establish a key stage 1 choir and begin to include in live performances
- Increase the number of class/phase performances so that every child is taking part in a performance at least once a term
- Increase the number of children receiving instrumental tuition
- Upgrade tuned and untuned instruments in school