

# Music Development Plan: St Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Caroline Gillespie and Kate Heynemand
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jenny Ambrose
Name of local music hub	SKY Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	St Helens Music Service 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. Margaret Mary's Junior School, we have a strong commitment to delivering high-quality music education. We aim to provide every child with the opportunity to explore, perform, and enjoy music through structured learning, live performances, and extracurricular activities.

Music is taught at St. Margaret Mary's Junior School using a published scheme called Kapow. The implementation of the Kapow music curriculum, ensures that our music education is progressive and fully aligns with the National Curriculum for Music. Regardless of their musical backgrounds and abilities, all of our teachers are trained and able to deliver quality music lessons.

**Timetabled Music and Curriculum Guidance:** All children take part in a minimum of one hour of music per week, in line with the national guidelines. Our music curriculum (which is guided by the KAPOW scheme) enables children to develop their own knowledge of key musical terms and basic musicianship skills. All children have opportunities to learn a range of instruments and

vocal techniques through structured lessons, whole-class teaching and within whole school assemblies. Six units of work are taught across the school year. These units ensure that each year-group progressively builds upon the key stands in the music National Curriculum. We teach music regularly so that children can remember and build upon their learning. Skills are built upon throughout year 3 to 6 and are revisited. Our BRIGHT structure and teaching and learning protocols ensure children have opportunities to re-cap, learn and review what they have learnt. The children may access music lessons using our music room (which has additional resources to enable them to access the curriculum) and in their classrooms.

**Inclusion:** Our music curriculum supports all learners (including those with disabilities and special educational needs). We have developed a fully inclusive curriculum and adaptations in some music lessons may include the use of coloured overlays for children to read texts, use of Chromebooks, use of ear defenders and use of other sensory aids. Detailed information on our inclusive practices can be found via the links below:

[Inclusive Teaching and Learning](#)  
[SEND Information](#)

## 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.

Within our SPOTLIGHT curriculum, all children perform on stage every year.

Children take part in a Musician of the Month assembly every week as well as whole school singing assemblies. Each month, as well as listening to music lessons, all children explore and appreciate the work of our featured 'Musician of the Month'.

**Extracurricular Activities and Additional Provision:** A choir and various music clubs (such as keyboard club) are available, promoting children's wider engagement in music. We hold an Enrichment Fair every year where children can sign up to express interest in these clubs. We also offer additional instrument lessons through Rock Steady (children can take part in one-to-one and small group tuition in various instruments) and also perform termly for peers and parents. We ensure that financial constraints are not a barrier to any child wishing to participate in extracurricular music lessons. Musical instrument tuition is also factored into our Pupil Premium Strategy. We also offer scholarships to pupils who demonstrate a particular flair in Music.

**Partnerships:** Our school works in partnership with our local music hub, but this is something we are keen to develop further.

## 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.

We celebrate and showcase the talents of all of our children through a variety of performances throughout the year. Whenever possible, we encourage parents to attend events and watch their children perform. In addition to our whole school singing assemblies and Musician of the Month assemblies, we provide children with opportunities to appreciate and explore music in a wide range of contexts.

This is a streamlined overview of the performance opportunities and cultural experiences provided throughout the school year:

### **Performance Opportunities by Year Group:**

**Year 3:** The Nativity (drama and musical performance)

**Year 4:** Harvest Festival (singing and dancing performance)

**Year 5:** A whole school musical production which is led by year 5

**Year 6:** A range of end-of-year events which includes a musical production

### **Additional Performance and Cultural Opportunities:**

**Christmas Talent Show:** Year group talent shows take place followed by a whole school talent show.

**Theatre Café:** Children are invited to sing / perform during the lunch break in the canteen or they may participate in Theatre Café as a spectator.

**Coffee Morning Performances:** Parents are invited to attend charity or themed coffee mornings. Children host and perform in these.

**Carol Concert:** The opportunity for all children to be involved in a carol concert in church

**Annual Pantomime:** Each year, we take all children to the theatre to watch a pantomime.

**Other School Trips:** Year 6 children go to the Philharmonic each year to see an orchestra perform live

**Community Events:** There are always opportunities for our children to perform and engage with the local community by singing in care homes and at local charity events.

**Performances:** We invite musicians (and theatre groups) into school. Rock Steady perform termly and our choir and speech choir perform for peers and parents.

The variety of performances and cultural experiences provided ensures a well-rounded and enriching experience.

## In the Future

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

- Make stronger links with our local music hub
- Make links with local secondary schools
- Involve more children in extracurricular musical instrument tuition with the ultimate aim of having a school band

## Further Information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.