

# Music development plan summary: St Mary's Catholic Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs E Amison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service, part of The Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Character and Arts Programme, City Learning Trust.

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.

Our curriculum annual overview and the Newman Catholic Collegiate Skills Progression Document is published on our school website. The bespoke curriculum, which draws on resources such as [Ten Pieces from the BBC](#) and [Classical 200 by ABRSM](#), is closely aligned to the Department for Education's [model music curriculum](#). It includes progressive singing development informed by Kodaly's principles as found in the work of Voices Foundation (which operated from 1993 to 2024) and [NYCOS, The National Youth Choir of Scotland](#) throughout years 1 to 6. There is a particular focus on rhythm work in key stage 1, melody in lower key stage 2 and harmony in upper key stage 2, underpinning a deepening understanding of the inter-related dimensions of music. Equal use of the three pillars of the curriculum (technical, constructive and

expressive), is fundamental to the structuring of activities and the schemes of work are designed to continuously deepen musicianship.

All pupils take part in music lessons, weekly key stage hymn practice assemblies and are supported and encouraged to participate in extra-curricular musical activities. Children in key stage 1 have a weekly 30-minute class lesson with a specialist music teacher and frequently learn other songs with their class teaching staff to support learning in other subjects.

In Year 3 and 4, all children have a fortnightly 45-minute curriculum lesson with the music specialist teacher and also have a weekly 30-minute instrumental lesson, learning with the school music specialist or a peripatetic teacher from the Music Hub. In Year 3 children learn the recorder in a whole class lesson and in Year 4 there are a range of orchestral instruments on offer taught in large groups of 8-15 children, for which children can express a preference.

In Year 5 and 6, all children have a weekly 30-minute curriculum lesson with the specialist music teacher and can opt to continue with instrumental lessons in a small group of up to 6 students. A parental contribution is sought for this lesson, but the school also subsidises a proportion of the lesson fee for all children; full funding is available, according to need.

## **Part B: Extra-curricular music activities and lessons**

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.

Beyond our whole class provision, small group instrumental tuition is offered by three specialist teachers in woodwind, brass and string instruments. These instrument groups are offered because there is a clear pathway to advanced level opportunities, heading towards a professional career, through the excellent provision at our collegiate high school, [St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy](#), which offers many co-curricular ensembles and relevant qualifications. Whilst in our school, children have the option to take [ABRSM Medal assessments](#) in school with their teacher, or be prepared to take ABRSM or Trinity grade examinations at external exam centres when they have progressed sufficiently. Children who are becoming confident performers are encouraged to enter the Stoke Young Musician Competition in the autumn term.

Instruments are available to loan from the school (violins) or the music service ( all other instruments). Lessons are charged via a monthly standing order and students who qualify for pupil premium funding have lessons that are fully subsidised. Parents

are asked to purchase books and consumables such as strings, rosin, and reeds. There is a collection of pre-loved books that can be borrowed if required.

After school, in the Autumn Term Children in years 1 to 3 can choose to participate in the City Music Service Songbirds choir. Children from Year 4 upwards can perform in the school choir which makes visits to the local community and also performs as part of the Young Voices Concert and the Newman Collegiate Choir. In The Spring Term there will be focus on wider performing arts in connection with the Angela Beardmore School Team providing a Drama Club For years 1 and 2, and staff in school preparing a small musical production. In the summer term, Advanced instrumentalists can join the school orchestra in the summer term

All children have access to the [free evening ensembles](#) provided by the City Music Service at the Bridge centre in Birches Head and the music teacher can also advise on other groups in the local area that rehearse at weekends. The City Music Service can also advise about provision of extra music lessons for [children in care](#) through the virtual school. Further afield, Mrs Amison can also advise on other workshops / independent groups in the region. Eg. Youth Projects at RNCM.

## 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.

There will be a myriad of musical experiences for children at our school.

### **Autumn term**

Choir at the Combined Schools Mass

City Songbirds Concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

EYFS and key stage 1 nativity performances

Key Stage 2 carol service

Choir perform carols at a local sheltered housing complex and the hospital

### **Spring Term**

[Young Voices](#) concert (Contributions for travel, spectators need to purchase tickets)

Halle Orchestra Concert visit (children to watch a concert, free minibus travel)

Recorder Festival (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade singing

Showtime Club performance

### **Summer Term**

WCET Celebration concert (free to participate, contributions for travel, spectators need to purchase tickets)

City Songbirds concert (free to participate, free travel to the rehearsal, spectators need to purchase tickets)

School Summer Concert with singing and instrumental performances by all classes and pupils

Collegiate Choir performance at St Margaret Ward Summer Concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

Year 5 Music taster lesson at St Margaret Ward

Year 6 instrumentalists introductory lessons with peripatetic teachers from St Margaret Ward

## **In the future**

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

- To improve instrument handling techniques in Key Stage 1 supporting development of gross and fine motor skills and reinforcing clear communication of steady beat.
- To add three class ensemble performance pieces into year 5 curriculum set in three large groups to introduce ensemble rehearsal practice and explore texture in music.
- Continue to review the curriculum content and resources to ensure representation of diverse musical styles.
- Continue to work with SLT to find ways to protect curriculum time from conflicts with other school activities.
- Continue to monitor the access to instrumental lessons across a range of student groups (SEND, Cic, PP) and continue to encourage take-up of lessons after WCET finishes.
- Sustain the full programme of annual trips and events, being creative about sourcing and sharing transport to keep parental contribution requests to a minimum.

## 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.

The local [music hub](#) has a local plan for music education in place that includes useful information.