

Music development plan summary: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023/2024
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Elizabeth Hunt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Kent Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	iRock

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 Joseph's we have reviewed the guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to refine and enhance our approach to music education. Through our lessons, acts of worship and music enrichment the children develop broad and deep understand of music, fostering a lifelong appreciation and love for the subject.

The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a child may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music in as many ways as they choose – either as listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of

how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop an interest in their lives. It will be evident over time that the progress, knowledge and skills of pupils will increase between EYFS and Year 6.

Our curriculum is progressive and is supported by substantive content and concepts based upon interrelated dimensions of music, which have been carefully thought out and sequenced. So, a child should know more and revisit knowledge and concepts to ensure depth and rigour over time. This knowledge is then used when singing, playing instruments, improving and composing, to develop creative and original pieces and performances. The key concepts, principals and themes have been developed from the national curriculum. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen. The music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate.

The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom children learn key aspects of music through cross-curricular links. They also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument. We provide high quality, fun, inspiring and creative lessons, engaging our pupils with singing, composing and listening to music from different times and places.

Music is taught using Charanga. Our approach to the music curriculum ensures that it is taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour. Each class throughout the school has a weekly 1-hour music lesson. Through the Musical School programme, the children develop their understanding, make musical judgements, apply their new learning, develop their aural memory, express themselves physically, emotionally and through discussion and create their own musical ideas. The wide range of core resources have been developed specifically to motivate and capture everyone's personal interest. The children not only learn about music; they become musicians who are able to share and perform using their new skills. There are 3 main resource areas: Units of Work, themed Topic songs and activities and instrumental Courses. The Units of Work are the main focal point for the music curriculum whilst the Topics and Courses provide a wealth of extension, enhancement and cross-curricular possibilities and experiences. In addition to this year 3 and 4 are also accessing whole class ensemble practice though Kent Music Hub, learning to play and perform the ukulele.

To further enrich our curriculum, we participate in weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, musical clubs and teaching from specialist music teachers, via iRock.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils including those children with SEND. Curriculum designers and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve. Every pupil is unique and so what works for each pupil varies. Pupil's individual needs are considered, and adaptations are planned to ensure the success of pupils in all subjects. Learning is sequenced and coherent to enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. Adaptations may include supporting pupils to pay attention to key aspects as well as reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory.

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.

At St Joseph's Primary School we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our co-curriculum music programme is designed to offer pupils numerous opportunities to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for the subject and enabling them to make a significant progress in their musical journey.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

Singing is the golden thread through St Joseph's, with a clear commitment to quality teaching and opportunities for progression for all children from the start of their school education. These assemblies are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience where children learn about pitch and harmony. The collective experience of singing together also builds a sense of community and shared joy in music making.

Celebrations and important parts of the liturgical calendar such as Lent, Easter and Christmas provide opportunities for children to sing supported by the pupil guitar group both in school and in the wider parish community.

After School Choir Club

Our after school choir club, open to KS2 pupils, has been a vibrant part of our music programme throughout the academic year. The choir provides an opportunity for

children to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony, and perform in front of live audiences. The choir has the opportunity to perform at the Young Voices event at the O2 – a highlight of the year! This provides the children to experience the thrill of performing in a large venue and being part of a larger musical community.

Guitar club

Our before school guitar club, open to year 6 pupils, has unpinned our acts of worship for many years and something that the school is extremely proud of. The children participate in weekly rehearsal sessions, support in singing assemblies and perform at whole school events. The children have also developed and applied their knowledge of notation. Furthermore, they have been able to share their talent and skills during our community events such as performing on the Eurotunnel Christmas stage.

iRock

Our partnership with iRock bring an exciting dimension to our music provision. iRock delivers sessions where pupils can learn to sing and play contemporary instruments such as drums, keyboards and electric guitars. These sessions are highly engaging and allow pupils to explore different genres of music, fostering creativity and enthusiasm. Termly performances to the school and parents provide a purpose to the sessions and enjoyment for the school community.

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.

At St Joseph's School, we are committed to nurturing confident, lifelong learners who are proud of their heritage and ready to make a positive contribution to society. As part of our holistic approach to education, we provide a rich diet of experiences that nurture the whole child. A critical component of this is the opportunity to attend a variety of musical events, which are designed to expose students to the joys of performance and foster a deep appreciation for music.

Each month the children have the opportunity to learn about a significant musician via the Musician of the Month Programme, enhancing a culture of musical appreciation and understanding. The focus is on diversity, equality and inclusion, drawing on a wide range of high quality live and recorded music, carefully drawn from different traditions, composers and musicians. This has increased musical vocabulary and knowledge of chronology and supported Catholic Social Teaching, for example, knowledge of social justice.

Whole school assembly time is used to share information and fun facts about the musician and information is sent out to parents via the school newsletter. The music is used in class and during entry and exit to assemblies.

Attending live performances is an integral part of our music curriculum. It exposes children to new crowds and environments, helping them develop a sense of belonging and build emotional intelligence. We have held live experiences in the school hall such as the annual Christmas pantomime and NHS Captain Wonder Web.

Our commitment to exposing children to high quality performances extends beyond the school premises. EYFS and Year 1 went to the Gulbenkian theatre to enjoy the Gruffalo and Year 6 have visited the Lyceum Theatre to immerse themselves in the hustle and bustle of the West End and the joy of The Lion King. Year 5 children also took part in the KCSP Trust choir at Aylesford Priory.

Our choir has the opportunity to perform with the Young Voices Choir at the O2, this also provides an opportunity for our parents to come and celebrate their children in a musical context. Performing alongside thousands of other children, creating memorable experiences.

Furthermore, each term we offer show case assemblies for our parents and families to enjoy and celebrate achievements in school, with a strong musical and performance theme. Important celebrations and events from the liturgical calendar including a Nativity performance and a reflection on the Stations of the Cross are marked. Our year 5 and 6 children have the opportunity to participate in an end of year production, performing on the stage and showing casing talent. Within our charitable work with the Mini-Vinnie's the children have performed songs and show cased talents on a variety of instruments.

To ensure that education is accessible to all, we subsidise the majority of our events and live performance visits. Additionally, through our partnership with IRock, we offer bursary places to disadvantaged pupils who might otherwise face barriers to accessing music. The commitment to inclusivity ensures every pupil at St Joseph's has access to experience the transformative power of music.

In the future

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

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music education provision to ensure that it meets the highest standards and provides enriching experiences for all our pupils. In the coming year we plan to implement several key improvements;

- Participation in local choir events such as the small school choir.
- Enhancing masses with further music opportunities.
- Ensure that songs that we sing in assemblies, show cases and events are from a diverse range of cultures.