

Music development plan summary: St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Marple Bridge

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	Emma Tennant
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Stockport Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

St Mary's shows true commitment to music as it has a specialist music teacher who delivers the music curriculum to each year group and coordinates musical activities and events during the academic year.

Children have weekly music lessons from the specialist music teacher, following the national curriculum for music through a combination of the use of the Kapow Scheme of work and bespoke materials developed for the teaching of whole class instrumental lessons. In year 4 the children spend the whole year learning the recorder, including reading standard notation, composing and listening to a range of music. In year 5 they spend a year learning the ukulele, both strumming chords and picking melodies from standard notation, and tablature. (full information on school website).

The curriculum is delivered with the needs of SEND pupils at its heart, and adjustments are made to suit the needs of each individual. For instance, during recorder lessons,

instruments are bought that have special additional keys on them to make covering the holes easier for children with smaller fingers, or for whom coordination is a challenge. Music is a subject where children can demonstrate special abilities across the academic range. It is important to give all children the chance to listen, compose and perform in many different musical contexts. St Mary's is careful to ensure that every child has all of these opportunities.

The curriculum demonstrates awareness of the Model Music Curriculum, through its use of a wide range of listening examples from both the Western Classical tradition, as well as music from around the world, put into a sensitive cultural context. The MMC also puts a strong emphasis on the ability to read music through graphic and traditional notation, which we achieve through the whole class teaching of recorder and ukulele.

There is good progression throughout the years that the children attend St Mary's, as they move from learning action songs that build up their sense of pitch and enjoyment of performing together and exploring sound, to using instruments to compose and create pieces to a set brief. As time goes on, their understanding of notation develops, so that they are able to read a range of notes both for playing the recorder, and the ukulele, and they learn about chords as well as single notes. They have many opportunities to perform in their lessons as well as chances to perform in the wider community.

There is a good range of classroom percussion, including a whole set of glockenspiels, where children can learn to explore pitch, and lots of untuned percussion. These are used to create compositions and add rhythmic interest to songs.

There is a strong tradition of singing at St Mary's, with a weekly singing assembly, daily worship and singing is an integral part of the weekly music lessons. The songs are chosen carefully to demonstrate progression, as children's voices mature and are able to sing over a wider range of notes.

St Mary's has consistent links with the Stockport Music Service, taking part in several of their choral concerts a year, using their CPD materials and employing some of their instrumental teaching staff.

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.

St Mary's offers a wide range of instrumental tuition, which is taken up by over 50 children, including piano, flute, guitar, clarinet, saxophone and violin. Instrumental teachers produce concerts for their pupils to play to parents and the rest of the school. Children are signposted to Stockport music hub – which provides opportunities for developing their performing skills. Instrumental lessons are subsidised for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

There is a regular KS2 choir that prepares each year for the Young Voices concert, with weekly rehearsals. It also performs at the Stockport Music Hub singing festival events at Stockport Town Hall. This group is free to join.

Children take part in community events, such as singing at care homes, taking part in Marple and Stockport Christmas events, singing for the school fair etc.

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.

The year 5 children learn the ukulele and go on an educational visit to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to play alongside the Halle orchestra and perform with 900 other children on their instruments. This is a project that involves a half term's preparation and gives children an insight into what an orchestra sounds like.

Visiting musicians come to school, including folk musicians related to members of the school, and larger scale singing projects based around social and emotional well-being.

In the future

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

St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Marple Bridge is committed to continually improving and developing its music provision. With this in mind, use of ICT is going to be added to the year 6 curriculum, by creating compositions using a sequencing programme. Opportunities to perform in the community are constantly being sought out.

