

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

## Overview

| Detail   | Information         |
|--|---------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers   | 2025 - 2026         |
| Date this summary was published  | April 2026          |
| Date this summary will be reviewed   | September 2026      |
| 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.

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.

Children have the chance to perform on stage each year as they progress from a simple nativity in nursery and reception, then a more challenging one in KS1. They perform a musical based on the Easter story in years 3 and 4 and then another large scale musical in years 5 and 6. All children take part in these shows and those who are gifted and talented in music get the opportunity to stretch themselves by singing solo parts and in small ensembles. Children gain skills and confidence from these events where they share their talents with the wider school community.

The Catholic church is an important part of the musical life of the school, both through singing in nativities and Easter productions, but also through learning hymns and religious songs throughout the year that reflect the different celebrations and festivals. Children also learn songs to sing in holy communion and to share in local churches at masses throughout the year.

Visiting musicians come to school, including folk musicians 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 has been added to the year 6 curriculum, giving the children the chance to create compositions using a sequencing programme. This is continuing to be developed and adapted to stretch all children. Adaptations and improvements that reflect the increasing understanding of how to support children with SEND are also being developed through professional development of music teaching staff.