

Music Development Plan Summary: Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	July 26
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 27
Name of the school music lead	Sara Jackson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Crew

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 Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery, we believe that music is an important part of every child's education and plays a significant role in the life of our Catholic school. Through music, we aim to inspire creativity, build confidence and foster a lifelong appreciation of music. Pupils regularly participate in hymns, liturgies, Masses and celebrations, recognising music as an expression of faith, community and joy.

Our music curriculum enables children to develop their musical knowledge and skills through listening, singing, playing, composing, improvising, performing and appraising a wide range of music from different cultures, traditions, genres and historical periods. We are committed to ensuring that every child experiences success in music and develops the confidence to express themselves creatively.

We deliver our curriculum through the Music Crew scheme, which provides a carefully sequenced, progressive and spiral curriculum from Nursery to Year 6. Music Crew develops pupils' understanding of the inter-related dimensions of music, including pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture and structure. As children revisit these concepts throughout their primary education, they build secure musical knowledge and increasingly sophisticated practical skills. The Music Crew curriculum is fully aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021), ensuring clear progression in musical knowledge, skills and understanding throughout primary school. Detailed [curriculum overviews](#) for each year group are available on the school's website, outlining the knowledge, skills and musical experiences pupils will develop throughout their primary education.

Music is taught for a minimum of one hour each week in every class. Lessons are practical, engaging and inclusive, giving pupils regular opportunities to sing, play tuned and untuned percussion instruments, compose, improvise, listen, evaluate and perform. The scheme supports teachers in delivering high-quality music lessons while ensuring that pupils meet the expectations of the National Curriculum. We are committed to ensuring that music is accessible to all pupils. Through adaptive teaching, appropriate scaffolding, practical activities and the use of a range of resources, children with SEND and disabilities are supported to participate fully and achieve success within the music curriculum.

Children benefit from a wide range of musical experiences beyond the classroom. They participate in whole-school singing, class performances, Friday celebration assemblies, liturgies and Masses throughout the year. Pupils have opportunities to join the school choir, receive peripatetic instrumental tuition and learn instruments including the recorder and keyboard. Where possible, children also experience live music through visiting musicians, workshops and performances.

Music in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Music is an integral part of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage and contributes to the Expressive Arts and Design area of learning. Children explore sound, rhythm, movement and singing through structured play, adult-led activities and continuous provision. They learn a range of familiar songs, nursery rhymes and action songs, developing their understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch while building confidence, communication and a love of music. Outdoor music-making forms an important part of provision, enabling children to experiment creatively with sounds and movement.

Music in Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, pupils follow the Music Crew curriculum, developing the fundamental skills of listening, singing, performing, composing and appraising. Children learn to use their voices expressively, play tuned and untuned percussion instruments, recognise and use musical

vocabulary, and begin to understand how music is organised. Practical music-making is at the heart of every lesson, enabling pupils to explore a wide variety of musical styles while developing confidence and enjoyment.

Music in Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, pupils continue to follow the Music Crew curriculum, revisiting and extending prior learning through progressively more challenging musical experiences. Children develop greater accuracy and confidence in singing and instrumental performance, compose and improvise using an increasing range of musical elements, and deepen their understanding of notation and musical structure. They listen critically to music from different cultures, traditions and historical periods, using appropriate vocabulary to evaluate and discuss what they hear. Regular opportunities to perform in assemblies, liturgies and school events help pupils develop confidence as musicians while celebrating their achievements with the wider school community.

Our ambition is that every child leaves Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery with the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate in, appreciate and enjoy music, equipping them for lifelong musical engagement.

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.

Children in Years 2 to 6 have the opportunity to receive peripatetic instrumental and singing tuition from an independent specialist music teacher. These lessons take place during the school day and provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their instrumental skills beyond the taught music curriculum. Parents can contact the school for further information about instrument availability, tuition fees and enrolment.

Disadvantaged pupils are invited to take up music and singing lessons, at a subsidised cost, supported through the school's pupil premium funding.

Our Key Stage 2 choir is open to all pupils in Years 3 to 6 and provides opportunities to develop singing skills, musical confidence and performance experience. The choir rehearses weekly and performs both within school and at events beyond the school community. Recent opportunities have included participation in Last Choir Singing events.

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.

Music plays an important role in the life of Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery, providing pupils with regular opportunities to perform, listen and celebrate music throughout the academic year.

All pupils take part in weekly singing during assemblies, helping to develop vocal skills, musical confidence and a shared enjoyment of singing. Music is also central to the Catholic life of the school, with pupils participating in hymns and music during Masses, liturgies and other celebrations throughout the year.

Children have a wide range of opportunities to perform for audiences of pupils, staff and families. Nursery children celebrate the end of their journey by performing in their Graduation Assembly. EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils take part in the annual Nativity, while Key Stage 2 pupils perform in the annual Carol Service. Lower Key Stage 2 pupils also participate in the Easter Service, and Year 6 pupils showcase their musical and performance skills in their end-of-year production.

Pupils are encouraged to share their musical achievements through Friday Celebration Assemblies, where individuals and groups have opportunities to perform to the school community and parents.

Our Key Stage 2 choir represents the school at local musical events, including participation in Last Choir Singing, and also performs Christmas carols at the school's annual Christmas Fair. These opportunities enable pupils to perform for wider audiences while developing their confidence, teamwork and enjoyment of music.

In addition to performing, pupils have opportunities to experience live music and theatre. Each year, children enjoy watching a live pantomime performance, giving them the opportunity to experience professional musical theatre and develop their appreciation of live performance. Where possible, pupils also benefit from visiting performers, workshops and other musical experiences that enrich and enhance the taught music curriculum.

In the future

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

At Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery, we are committed to continually developing our music provision to ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience, enjoy and succeed in music.

Over the coming years, we aim to:

- Further develop the Music Crew curriculum across the school, ensuring high-quality, progressive music teaching in every year group.
- Continue to develop pupils' opportunities to perform, both within school and in the wider community.
- Further develop our Key Stage 2 choir by increasing opportunities to perform at local events and festivals.
- Provide more opportunities for pupils to experience live music through visiting musicians, workshops and performances.
- Celebrate the achievements of pupils receiving peripatetic instrumental tuition by providing opportunities for them to perform to their peers, parents and the wider school community.
- Continue to develop inclusive music provision so that all pupils, including those with SEND, can fully access and enjoy the music curriculum and wider musical opportunities.
- Strengthen links with external music organisations where appropriate to further enrich pupils' musical experiences.

Further information (optional)

Alston Lane Catholic Primary School and Nursery has introduced the Music Crew scheme of work to further strengthen the teaching and learning of music across the school. As the scheme becomes embedded, we will continue to monitor its impact and further develop our music provision.