

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



Overview

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.

General Overview	
Details of music development plan	Information
Academic year that this development plan covers	2025-2026
Date this development plan was published	June 2025 2024
Date this development plan will be reviewed	June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Ceri Tucker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs Ceri Tucker
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Services

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.

Vision and Overall Objectives

To provide a rich, diverse, and progressive music curriculum for all children (including during school hours and before/after school). This will be delivered through outstanding music teaching and leadership. Opportunities to learn musical instruments, and participate in ensembles in school, along with regular performances, both in and out of school will showcase the musical talents of our children. This will also maximise cultural capital for all our children, their overall wellbeing and confidence, whilst creating a supportive community of music making and develop a life-long love of music. Musical activity gives powerful, validating, multi sensory and kinaesthetic experiences to children with SEND, supporting the development of the whole child. Children will perform, listen and analyse critically, sing, improvise and compose music and understand the musical elements as building blocks within music.

Core Components

Our musical journey begins in EYFS where children are introduced to songs and rhymes as part of their learning. Through musical games and stories, children learn to clap, sing and use untuned percussion instruments to create a strong foundation in using sound in a fun and engaging way.

The Little Fingers Programme in Year 1 and Year 2 is designed for young learners in KS1 and can build on early musical learning. Delivered by specialist teachers, for 30 minutes per week, musical skills are learnt through singing games and rhymes and developing children's confidence in using untuned percussion instruments.

Year 4 and Year 5 carry out instrumental learning as part of the First Access scheme. All children in these year groups are taught by specialist teachers, for 30 minutes per week, to play the ukulele and are given the opportunity to perform regularly for friends and family to showcase their learning. These programmes introduce pupils to instrumental learning in a fun and inclusive way. They are carefully designed to develop pupils' confidence and progress in music, whilst also enhancing their personal and educational development as a whole. All children in these year groups are taught by specialist teachers to play the ukulele and are given the opportunity to perform regularly for friends and family to showcase their learning.

Year 3 and Year 6 music continues to build on learning in small, incremental steps. With the guidance of specialist teachers, for 30 minutes per week, pupils develop their playing with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. Listening develops aural memory and children develop and understanding of the history of music, spotting links between them and seeing the history of music develop. Children will also learn how to use technology in music, using the Charanga platform.

All children gather weekly to sing together in Hymnal Praise, where both modern and traditional hymns are learned as part of worship. This enables children to feel confident when singing at services at St. Augustine's church where we join our parish community for many celebrations in the liturgical year.

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.

Music tuition and groups

In addition to our music curriculum, families may also arrange private instrumental tuition through Durham Music Services. This is delivered during school time, in small groups. String instruments are especially popular and the children are supported in playing in small ensembles. Families and friends are regularly invited to listen to performances of these groups and to individual soloists.

Further information on instrumental tuition available from Durham Music Service can be found here: <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>

As part of our offer of extra-curricular clubs, children in KS2 can choose to join the choir, meeting once per week. The choir sings at a range of events, from school competitions and The Mayor's Concert, to church services and carol singing for members of the local community. The focus is on sharing a love for music and to provide children with experiences and skills to provide the stepping stones to a musical adulthood.

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.

Musical Events

We are looking forward to the musical experiences planned for this academic year, including:

- *Working with the Royal Opera House to bring songs from The Magic Flute into classrooms in lower KS2.*
- *Our KS1 Nativity, including songs to retell the Christmas Story.*
- *Visiting St. Augustine's Church with KS2 where we will sing songs and carols at our Advent Liturgy.*
- *A group of KS2 children will visit local sheltered accommodation to share carols at Christmas time.*
- *Our instrumental learners in KS2 will join together for a Christmas performance.*
- *A school visit to the Pantomime at the Hippodrome Theatre, as members of the audience.*
- *An invitation from the Mayor for a small group of children to perform on stage at the Dolphin Centre, a song of the Mayor's choosing at the Mayor's Song Contest.*
- *Our instrumentalists' Spring Concert, involving all children who learn an instrument in school, including Year 4 and 5 ukuleles and those who have tuition through the Music Service.*
- *Working with the Royal Opera House to bring songs from The Magic Flute into classrooms in lower KS2.*
- *Year 6 transition visit to Carmel College to watch musical performance.*
- *The Year 6 Summer Production.*

In the future

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

In the Future

Children and staff at St. Augustine's value music highly and consider it to be an important part of school life. Looking to the future, we will aim to build upon this and foster a love of music which will stay with the children even when they move on.

As a school, we intend to continue our excellent relationship with Durham Music Service and strengthen it further by joining local schools at events run by the Service more frequently. This should be in place from the Summer Term.

We would like to introduce our children to a wider variety of live musical performances from professionals, across an array of genres and from all around the world. It would be wonderful to allow the children to access a different type of theatre visit. Depending on availability, this should take place during this academic year.

Further information

Useful Links

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:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>

Further information from Durham Music Service can be found on their website:

<https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/>