

# Music development plan summary: St. Mary's Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Chorley

## Overview

| Detail                                                                             | Information          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                             | 2025 - 26            |
| Date this summary was published                                                    | September 2025       |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                                 | September 2026       |
| Name of the school music lead                                                      | Mrs Nicola Cahalin   |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) |                      |
| Name of local music hub                                                            | Lancashire 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.

- At St. Mary's we follow 'Kapow' as a scheme of work which provides teachers with well-planned and progressive music lessons, as set out by the National Curriculum.
- All children receive an hour-long music lesson during most half terms.
- Our school music curriculum is available to view via our school website <https://chorleystmarys.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/curriculum/music>
- Pupils in our EYFS will access musical opportunities during continuous provision, as well as a more formal, discrete music lessons from Kapow.
- Pupils are given the opportunity to listen to a wide variety of musical genres on entry to assemblies and collective worship, up to 3 times per week and then to 'appraise' what they hear. We offer a varied repertoire of musical genres

(including the use of BBC Ten Pieces) to give the children these listening opportunities, which we believe increases happiness, strengthens learning and improves mental well-being.

## 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.

- We provide weekly, instrumental music tuition outside of our curriculum music lessons, through peripatetic music teachers from Lancashire music service. We currently provide one-to-one and small-group tuition for instruments, including flute, clarinet, piano, keyboard and guitar. Designated learning spaces are provided within school to meet these pupils' needs.
- These lessons take place during lunchtimes and some afternoon curriculum time, therefore the music teachers use a rota system, so that the pupils' classroom learning is not impacted.
- Lessons are offered to pupils on a PDP (parent direct payment) scheme, where families arrange and pay for their instrumental lessons directly through Lancashire music service.
- Parents and carers have the opportunity to pay for peripatetic music lessons in school time and are provided with a choice of lesson types and payment options. Tuition is subsidised or free, for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- Some of our pupils take the RSM exams, for example, Grade 1 flute or piano. It is always lovely to celebrate the children's musical achievements in our whole school assemblies.



- In KS2, pupils can join the school choir, which takes place one afternoon after school. We enjoy singing and have been involved in the 'Let's Go Sing' concerts for a number of years, performing at King George's Hall, Blackburn and Blackburn Rover's Football Ground.

## 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.

- We welcome the opportunity to enjoy live performances and we were recently visited (free of charge) by some musicians from the BBC philharmonic orchestra. The workshop was called 'Early Ears' and we had 5 musicians performing the story of 'The Gingerbread Man' to our EYFS and KS1 children. The children were fully engaged and thoroughly inspired.
- We signpost events that are happening outside school, via the Lancashire music hub, such as woodwind ensembles, orchestras, and music workshops on our weekly school newsletter. We have had a few children that have joined the woodwind ensemble on a Saturday morning at another school, locally.
- We timetable half-termly hymn practices to prepare for special Masses and Feast Days in our school year or to prepare for a class collective worship, usually led by the head teacher and sometimes our parish priest. We sing together as a whole school in assemblies and special celebrations throughout the year.
- At St. Mary's we have three Christmas performances: EYFS Nativity and a KS1 Christmas play – both held in the school hall for parents and families to enjoy. KS2 sing and perform a nativity play at church, where all families are welcome to attend.
- The choir, along with Year 1 & 2 classes have visit St. Mary's parish centre to share & perform their repertoire of Christmas carols to the St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) group. It also gives us the opportunity to develop meaningful partnerships within the local community and live out our school catholic values.
- Our Year 3 class have taken part in the community concert 'Chorley's Big Sing' / 'Lancashire Sings' for the last 2 years, learning a range of songs from different

cultures to perform at Chorley town hall. This is provided as a joint venture by LMH and CSSP. Last summer, June 2025 and next June, the school choir will take part in this event.

- The Y6 pupils perform an annual leaver's concert at the end of the summer term, in the school hall, which involves learning songs, dancing and acting. This is well-supported by parents and an opportunity for the whole class to celebrate their musicianship with a live audience.
- We hold an annual talent show during Lent where children have the opportunity to sing, play and perform to the whole school. The school choir sang a Gospel Medley in 3 parts, with the children conducting each separate part. The instrumental musicians played pieces and individual pupils and groups from all year groups sang pop songs, with singing and dancing.
- The school is lucky to be able to enjoy an annual theatre trip at Christmas time. This may be to watch a pantomime, for example at Lancaster Playhouse, Bolton Octagon or a trip to The Lowry Theatre. Occasionally, EYFS and KS1 may watch an age-appropriate live Julia Donaldson themed play and KS2 an age – appropriate play based on a novel.
- We welcome in drama students from Runshaw college performing Arts course in February. They perform 2 separate shows, annually for infants and juniors, singing, acting and dancing – engaging and inspiring our pupils with their live performances.

## In the future

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

- Offer a recorder group for children in Year 2 during the lunchtime period, commencing in summer 2026.
- Support more children, including those with SEND to be involved in peripatetic music lessons provided by LMS.
- Each class to share their 'end of unit' performance from their Kapow music lessons, with another class or in a whole school assembly and share with parents via our school learning platforms.

- Invite musicians in to school so that pupils experience live music
- Continue to signpost local musical opportunities to pupils / parents.

Ongoing staff CPD - music curriculum delivery through Kapow Music.

### **Further information (optional)**