



Music development plan summary 2025-2026

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Durand/Abdul Samad Majid
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Durand
Name of local music hub	Bromley Youth Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	BYMT Strings specialist teacher Christine Hardy - strings tuition for year 3 pupils for the year

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. Details of our music curriculum can be found on our website including our Intent statement,

details of the curriculum for individual year groups which links progression of knowledge, skills and understanding within the year group and age phase. For greater detail please follow the link: <https://www.st-marys-catholic.bromley.sch.uk/curriculum/music>

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.

Within the pages of our website full details of our music curriculum can be found including detailed information of the progression of knowledge and skills for each strand of the National Curriculum, based on the Model Music Curriculum for KS1 and 2, and when they are taught.

Intent Statement for Music:

Through the study of music, St. Mary's children will understand that music is a form of expression that can represent different feelings, emotions and narratives. They will learn that music is universal and has no boundaries. St. Mary's children will understand that music is deeply rooted in cultural identity; we will encourage them to listen and to appreciate all different forms of music.

Rationale and our learning sequence

The National Curriculum for England states the following:

“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”

At St. Mary's we have developed our music Curriculum to ensure that at all stages of their learning journey our children are equipped with the following skills and develop appreciation of music:

- Through the principles of the Kodaly philosophy of music teaching children develop an inner sense of pulse, pitch and rhythm which develops their musical literacy, exploration, improvisation, composition, listening, appraising and performance
- Children develop a love of singing and performance and understand how music is created, produced, communicated and how it supports and enriches cultural diversity and heritage

This learning is enriched by additional opportunities and activities such as the year 3 Strings Project, where all children have the opportunity to learn a string instrument for the academic year; Young Voices and regular performances both in and beyond school. Through our partnership with the Bromley Youth Music Trust children are able to access a wide range of instrumental tuition including, brass, woodwind and string instruments. Piano and singing lessons are also available for children as extra-curricular activities. At all points through their learning journey children engage in performance from Nativity plays, Carol concerts, strings concerts, Young Voices , the year 5 Passion Play and the year 6 production. Our music curriculum overview tracks the sequence of learning for our children and seeks to build on prior learning at all stages of the learning journey so that children are able to refer to prior learning experiences when accessing new learning and deepening skills, musical appreciation and understanding over time.

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	Formal music teaching during allocated curriculum music per week	Additional time allocated to music within directed time per week
Reception	As part of the Expressive Arts and Design Area of Learning music and performance forms part of our Continuous Provision 45 minutes formal music teaching per week with a music specialist	Assemblies, hymn practice and musical learning of other subjects e.g. counting songs provide an additional 45 minutes per week on average.
KS1	45 minutes per week of formal music teaching with a music specialist	Assemblies, hymn practice and musical learning of other subjects e.g. counting songs provide an additional hour per week on average
KS2	1 hour per week of formal music teaching with a music specialist	Assemblies and hymn practice provide an additional hour per week on average

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.

At St Mary's we offer children the following additional instrumental lessons mainly through our partnerships with BYMT and as being a member of the BYMT Hub. Children inclusively are able to access the following instruments:

Violin, flute, guitar and piano together with individual singing lessons. These lessons are available for individual pupils for a small termly fee. Where families are eligible for Pupil Premium Grant school use this funding stream to ensure no children, wishing to access this opportunity, are prevented from doing so on financial grounds. Children are prepared for music examinations by their peripatetic specialist music teachers.

There are a number of choirs children have the opportunity to join; we have 2 choir clubs that parents pay a fee for directly to the external provider. One club is for KS1 children and 1 club is for KS2 children; similarly school will use the Pupil Premium Grant to ensure any child who wishes to take part can do so.

Year 5 pupils take part in the Annual Young Voices massed choir at the O2 Arena.

In year 2 all children learn how to play the recorder within directed curriculum time.

For over 15 years children in year 3 have all had the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument - predominantly the violin within directed curriculum time. This opportunity was made possible by our partnership with BYMT. The school formerly hired instruments from BYMT but in July 2024 the PTA provided funds for school to buy 60 violins and all children in year 3 learn to play the violin for the full academic year resulting in a concert for parents in the summer term. The children are all allocated a violin which is theirs to use for the year and they are actively encouraged to take the instrument home each week to practice their skills and they are taught by a strings specialist from BYMT.

Our specialist music teacher runs music therapy sessions for children with additional learning and emotional needs.

The following information is taken directly for our Charging and Remissions Policy:

Music tuition

Although the law states that all education provided during school hours must be free, music lessons are an exception to this rule. Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the National Curriculum

- If the teaching is provided under the first access to the Key Stage 2 instrumental and vocal tuition programme
- for a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

Pupil Premium Strategy

Within our Published Pupil Premium Strategy Challenge 6 relates directly to access to extra-curricular activities “Without support, some of our disadvantaged children would not be able to access extra-curricular activities or arts activities.” The Pupil Premium Strategy evidences the following:

All disadvantaged children had funded educational visits as an entitlement. They were offered funded extra-curricular clubs and peripatetic music lessons for one instrument. As a result, 11/27 children availed of at least one opportunity, as follows:

Eight children (across 3 families) - no opportunities as they live a considerable distance from the school.

11 children: one opportunity

5 children: more than one opportunity

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.

There is a weekly Hymn Practice for both KS1 and KS2 where children sing and are able to learn a wide repertoire of hymns which are used in our collective worship. Parents and children have recently been asked to suggest new hymns from their parishes that are not sung in school in order to widen our repertoire. In liturgical assemblies, which are class based, the singing of a hymn is central to celebrating the liturgy and all religious services including year group and whole school Masses, Children’s Liturgy Services and our annual May Procession are all enriched by singing.

There are a range of opportunities for children to engage in musical performances outside directed curriculum time, some of which include:

- our Reception and KS1 children present a Nativity each year which is enriched by music;

- our key stage 1 pupils take part in the BYMT workshops;
- our KS2 children take part in the annual Carol Service at St. Edmund's Parish Church annually, this service is a mixture of traditional carols, some of which are congregational, and other Christmas carols that are more contemporary and those that celebrate and reflect the multi-cultural and international heritage of our school community;
- our year 3 children perform a strings concert at the end of the academic year to present their skills to parents and the wider school community;
- our year 5 pupils participate in the annual Young Voices massed choir at the O2 Arena
- our year 5 pupils present The Passion Play annually. This is a solemn act of worship which marks The Passion of Jesus and includes both solo, group and whole year group singing as part of the act of worship presented to the school community and year 5 parents;
- our year 6 pupils present a Year 6 Leavers production each summer term which also includes both solo, group and whole year group singing;
- colleagues from BYMT provide demonstration lessons and workshops for children to engage further in music education. This year, year 2 have engaged in a Handbells Workshop, there has been a demonstration from the flute teacher with a further demonstration of the saxophone planned for the spring term and a woodwind demonstration for year 4.

In the future

2025 - 2026

Christmas activities - 2 x Nativities, Carol Service

Year 3 Strings and strings concert

Year 5 Young Voices and Passion Play

Year 6 Leavers production

Additionally New for 2024-25 in collaboration with BYMT Inspire

Hand bells workshop from BYMT for year 2 pupils - Term 1

Toots woodwind demonstration from BYMT for year 4 - Term 2

Access to pre-recorded instrument demonstration videos and CPD opportunities

Music development to be a curriculum focus for the Governing Body

Further information

<https://www.bymt.co.uk/>

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.