

Music development plan summary: St Mary's Church of England School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Teresa Richards
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emma Gooding
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Guitars in schools

Through our St Mary's Music Curriculum, we believe that, in every child (regardless of starting point - including the more able and those with SEND), there can be fostered a love and understanding of music. Music is a unique and powerful form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. Through our teaching, children can increase their self-confidence, creativity, and imagination, and have opportunities for self-expression and a sense of personal achievement. They are able to demonstrate the values of integrity, resilience and respect, allowing them to shine as lights in the world.

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 is fortunate in having several teachers who are able and confident musicians themselves and can incorporate their own ideas, knowledge and musical skills into lessons. To support both these staff and non-specialist staff, we use *Charanga* for lesson resources and planning alongside *Karate Recorder*, *BBC Ten Pieces* and some units from *Musical Express*. In April 2021, the government published the Model Music Curriculum with guidance and support on how to interpret the National Curriculum for Music throughout all key stages, and this forms the backbone of the sequencing of skills and knowledge taught.

All children in the school receive a weekly hour-long Music lesson. These take a whole class approach, where children respond collectively or as individuals, as well as pair

and group work. During EYFS to Year 4, the children are taught by their class teacher using Charanga's Model Music Curriculum Scheme. In Years 5 and 6, the children receive Music tuition from a specialist Music Teacher who builds on the children's musical learning lower down the school, focussing on singing a range of music (acapella, accompanied, unison and polyphonic) from different genres and styles. They also, through a whole-class ensemble approach to instrumental teaching, develop in confidence playing the recorder with the basic skills to produce an effective sound and the beginnings of a range that enables them to play simple tunes in an ensemble with others. Children become confident to engage in performing opportunities. Children are given opportunities to progress onto Doods and Toots, laying foundations for other woodwind instrumental learning.

The fundamental approach to Music at St Mary's is that **all** children can learn to sing in tune with a well-produced and relaxed tone. An essential element of our lessons is to build on vocal technique through the learning of songs, during which opportunities can be taken to intervene and support those children with specific challenges. A range of choral works are prepared, from simple unison songs with the youngest classes, moving toward multi-part (polyphonic) music as the children progress in ability and confidence, and opportunities are regularly provided for presentation and performance.

Singing is complemented by instrumental work and listening to music. All children are involved in practical music making, learning the techniques to play a range of classroom instruments including: tuned and untuned percussion (including African Djembe drums and Samba drums); Recorders (with Doods and Toots – beginner clarinets and flutes – being offered to higher achieving pupils); Glockenspiel; Ukulele and Electronic Keyboards. Importantly, children are also encouraged to explore new musical ideas and compose their own pieces, enabling them to experiment creatively and communicate through the medium of music.

Through singing and instrumental teaching, children learn how sounds are organised into musical structures by understanding the 'elements' of music, as well as developing knowledge of and fluency in reading standard musical notation. Encountering music from different times and regions of the world, the children learn the impact that history, culture and context have on musical styles and can link this to other areas of the curriculum.

Despite covid having restricted the opportunity for children to sing and play blown instruments a few years ago, we have restarted this now throughout the school, in line with the latest government guidance. There are some skill and knowledge gaps as a result of this which we have identified and have planned to address accordingly.

Listening to music is fundamental to musical understanding. By learning to listen critically, pupils will not only expand their musical horizons but also gain a deeper understanding of how music is constructed and the impact it can have on the listener. Listening to a broad range of music also helps develop other areas of musical activity,

including composing and performing. The Model Music Curriculum suggests a list of pieces, for KS1 and 2 children, to ensure that pupils gain a broad aural knowledge of Western Classical Music, Popular Music (defined broadly) and Traditional Music from around the world. These are introduced to the children through twice half-termly music assemblies across two years, delivered by Mrs Richards.

For full information on our schools Music curriculum, by term please click [here](#).

For full information on our adaptation for SEN children, please click [here](#).

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.

As every child sings as part of their weekly lessons and the expectations of these are high in terms of vocal production and polyphony, the children form, in coming together, a choir – for example the year 5 and 6 ‘choir’, of all 120 children, will sing a range of songs in up to 3 parts for their Christmas carol service. During the year 2024-2025, it is hoped that we will run an after-school singing club to take part in Young Voices.

A Year 5 and 6 band runs at lunchtimes in the Autumn term, to learn a carol to perform at the Carol Service.

A Year 5 and 6 choral group runs at lunchtimes of the Autumn term, to learn the Brittan’s ‘Hodie’ to perform at the Carol Service.

Children learning recorder have additional opportunity to perform to earn their ‘belts’ and drop-in support sessions are run by Mrs Richards at morning breaks throughout the year. There are practice spaces provided in the Y6 classrooms during break and lunchtime for those children who would like to do this.

Children in KS1 and 2 all have the opportunity to learn instruments with peripatetic staff. Guitar is taught by Guitars In Schools and lessons are arranged between the parents and company directly. Previously, Singing and Piano has been taught by a private visiting teacher but from September 2024, this will be taught, alongside all other orchestral instruments, by peripatetic music teachers from Bucks Music Trust. These lessons are arranged either directly with BMT or via completing a form in school. Currently, there are: 1 cello, 8 violins, 2 clarinets, 3 trumpets, 7 guitars, 22 piano, 2 singing. Last year, we had an instrumental workshop run by the peripatetic staff, allowing children the chance to hear different instruments and have a go themselves.

In the build up to this, children and teachers who already played demonstrated this in collective worships. It is planned to repeat this again during 2024-2025.

Pupil Premium children are eligible to have half the cost of their instrumental tuition paid for by Bucks Music Trust. Using the support of the Joyce Trust (a fund set up to support children at St Mary's accessing music tuition and school trips), children of families where cost is a barrier to them are able to have the costs of tuition and instrumental hire covered. Recorders (and, if a child progresses onto them, Doods and Toots) are funded for pupil premium children.

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.

Performance opportunities are a central, and ever-growing, part of the St Mary's Music curriculum. Some of these take place internally to peers, but many allow the children to show their parents what they have learnt, giving them a sense of purpose and pride in their learning and building confidence in their abilities. Alongside the list of organised performances below, children are also given opportunity in the classroom to perform their own compositions to one another.

Below is a summary of 2023-2024 opportunities:

Autumn 2023

EYFS: Christmas songs to parents

KS1 – Years one and two: Production (singing) to parents and peers.

Year four: Harvest Festival in the Church (singing) to parents.

Year four: Christingle Service in the Church (singing) to parents.

Year three: Christmas Carol Concert (singing) to parents

Year six: Remembrance Service (singing) to parents and peers.

Year five and six: Formal 9 lessons and carols Service in the Church (singing and instrumental) to parents.

Guitar showcase assembly – to parents and peers

Spring Term 2024:

Year three: Easter service (singing) to parents and peers.

Whole School – Recording of ‘Shine from the Inside Out’ to be published on the school website (singing)

Guitar showcase assembly – to parents and peers

Instrumental showcase assemblies for a range of orchestral instruments (played by students and school teachers) – to peers.

Summer Term 2024:

Year five: Recorder assembly for peers and parents

Year six: Samba demonstration as an ‘Opening Ceremony’ for both KS1 and KS2 Sports Day for peers and parents

Instrumentalists (mixed years): performance to peers and parents for those children learning with BMT who would like an opportunity to perform.

Year six: Summer show to peers and parents

Year six: Leaver’s Assembly to parents

During the year 2024-2025, it is planned that all the above will take place with the addition of performances by pianists and orchestral instrumentalists who learn in and out of school.

There is a daily collective worship in the school. At the start and end of this, children listen to a piece of music, information about which is displayed on the board, allowing them to be exposed to hearing a wide range of composers and music of different genres. Children take part in singing assemblies every Tuesday, led either by Mrs Richards or Mrs Gooding. Here they learn a range of hymns, which are then sung as part of day-to-day collective worship.

During December 2023, some classes had opportunity to watch the live-stream concert from Bucks Music Trust. It is hoped that the New Mozart Orchestra will be able to visit during 2024-2025. The school plans to take all children to the pantomime at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre in December 2024.

In the future

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

- We will sign up to Sing-Up in order to increase availability of wider curriculum-related songs which can be used throughout the school as well as a wider range of music which can be taught to the children as part of singing assemblies.
- Ensure that music technology forms part of the Year 5 and Year 6 provision, by using Yumi through Charanga on iPads.
- Ensure that performance opportunities exist for all children throughout the school to showcase their instrumental learning to parents and peers. Whilst there are many opportunities for singing performances, there are fewer for year EYFS-4 instrumentally.
- Continue to enhance the St Mary's music curriculum and inspire an excitement for, and enjoyment of, music in the children. Ensure that all children (and parents) are aware of opportunities that could be open to them.
- Look at the musical provision in Early Years, using Bucks Music Trust and Harmony Valley to support this.
- Consider the opportunity that Young Voices can offer the children and the feasibility of running this as an after-school club for Years 3 and 4.
- Take part in Energize with the children in Year 5, giving them collaborative music-making and dance experiences with other schools.
- Look at the feasibility and practicalities of doing a hub-based music festival (across our Trust) in the Spring term.

Further information (optional)

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.

Buckinghamshire Music Trust provide our instrumental tuition as well as offering a range of opportunities to take part in ensembles and choirs. Please see this link for more information: [Buckinghamshire Music Trust – Music Tuition and Ensembles Throughout Buckinghamshire \(bucksmusic.org\)](#)

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan. **???? do we have this?**