# Music development plan summary: St Benedict’s Catholic Primary

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2024/25 |
| Date this summary was published | September 24 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 25 |
| Name of the school music lead | Aoife Marciniak |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Catherine McBride (curriculum lead) |
| Name of local music hub |  |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Love Music Trust |

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.

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| At St Benedict’s, music is a valued part of the curriculum and is timetabled for all year groups for a minimum of three half-terms each academic year, alongside a dedicated weekly singing session.  We employ an external music specialist from Love Music Trust to deliver lessons to three classes, following their own structured curriculum centred around glockenspiel instruction. For the remaining four classes, teachers deliver music using the Charanga scheme of work, which is fully aligned with the model music curriculum and has been thoughtfully adapted by our music lead to suit the needs of our school. This progressive, week-by-week programme ensures full coverage of statutory requirements, with clear evidence of pupil progress observed through lesson observations and pupil voice.  Pupil voice activities reveal an increasing ability to recall and apply key musical vocabulary, and lesson observations consistently show high levels of engagement and participation from all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our Orchard class, which supports pupils with complex needs, also receives weekly music lessons. These sessions are carefully adapted by the music lead to ensure accessibility and meaningful participation.  We are well-resourced with a variety of instruments to support music learning, including recorders, glockenspiels, keyboards, and a range of percussion instruments. Throughout the wider curriculum, teachers regularly engage pupils in discussions about musicians, musical genres, and cultural contexts, enriching their overall understanding and appreciation of music. |

## 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.

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| The school offers a vibrant and inclusive extra-curricular music programme that enhances pupils' musical development and fosters community engagement.  We run two school choirs: the **School Choir** and the **Performance Choir**. The School Choir is open to all pupils from Year 2 upwards and meets weekly, supported by the Assistant Headteacher and an external specialist from ‘Handforth Highnotes’. This choir performs regularly in the local community, including every third Sunday at Mass and at local care homes.  The **Performance Choir** is made up of pupils selected for their musical ability and potential. This group receives additional training from the Music Lead and has represented the school at high-profile events, including a performance at The Cheshire Show. Participation in both choirs is provided free of charge.  In partnership with Handforth High Notes, we also offer small-group tuition in recorder, ukulele, and keyboard. These lessons are available for a small fee of £2.50 per session. Through this partnership, pupils have the opportunity to progress through graded music examinations and develop their musical skills further. |

## 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.

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| Our pupils participate in a range of external musical events throughout the year. These include the annual Wilmslow Music Festival and the All Hallows Catholic College end-of-year production. Year 5 pupils also have the prestigious opportunity to perform at the Bridgewater Hall alongside the Hallé Orchestra.  Each class delivers an assembly for parents, which includes musical performances. Year 5 pupils have also showcased their glockenspiel skills during dedicated performances for parents.At the termly whole school parent assembly, the performance choir will perform and all children will sing hymns.  We regularly enrich the music curriculum with specialist workshops, exposing pupils to diverse musical styles such as Bhangra and Flamenco.  This year each child had half-a term of ‘ druhm’ lessons focussing on beat and timbre.  Once a year we host a concert alongside ‘Handforth Highnotes’, bringing together current and former pupils, along with members of the wider community, to celebrate music and raise funds for charitable causes. |

## In the future

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| **Objective**: Establish a school band to complement the existing choir, promoting ensemble performance skills.  **Actions**:   * + Identify interested students and conduct auditions   + Schedule regular rehearsals and performances   + Provide access to a variety of instruments   + Collaborate with drama and music teachers to identify opportunities for musical integration.   + Assign student musicians to perform live during the play.   + Rehearse musical pieces in conjunction with the play's schedule.   **Objective**: Modernise the school's musical instrument inventory to offer a broader range of sounds and learning experiences.  **Actions**:   * + Assess the current state of keyboards and identify models for replacement.   + Purchase drum machines to introduce students to electronic music production.   + Seek funding or grants to support the acquisition of new instruments   **Objective**: Ensure students experience (and perform) live music performances annually to inspire and educate.   * **Actions**:   + Plan annual field trips to concerts or music festivals.   + Invite professional musicians to perform at the school.   + Perform in front of a variety of audiences |