

Music development plan summary: St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	29-1-25
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Andrew Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire 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 our school, each class has a dedicated weekly music session lasting up to an hour, taught discretely as part of the curriculum. These lessons are delivered by class teachers using the Leicestershire Music Hub's Primary Scheme of Work, which is fully aligned with the Model Music Curriculum. This ensures pupils receive a well-rounded and enriching musical education.

The curriculum is organised into six key units: Pulse, Voice, Rhythm, Pitch, Technology, and Structure and Form, with a focus on 20th Century Music. Each unit builds progressively, enabling pupils to develop a strong foundation in musical skills and concepts. As part of each lesson, pupils listen to carefully chosen pieces of music linked to the learning objectives. This helps them explore different styles, genres, and cultural contexts, deepening their understanding and appreciation of music.

In Key Stage 2, pupils also enjoy specialist-led instrument tuition. Year 3 pupils learn to play the recorder, Year 4 focus on the ukulele, and Year 5 are introduced to a range of stringed instruments. Many pupils continue to build on their musical skills and interests in Year 6 and beyond, developing confidence and fostering a lifelong love of music and performance.

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.

Our Year 6 choir collaborates with another school within our trust to practise and perform at De Montfort Hall for the Memphis concert. This is an invaluable opportunity for pupils to perform in front of a large audience alongside many other schools while building teamwork and friendships with pupils from a different school. In addition, the Year 6 choir regularly performs for the school, showcasing their talents and inspiring younger pupils.

To further nurture a love of music, we offer a variety of after-school clubs throughout the year. These include Musical Theatre and Singing Club, providing pupils with opportunities to explore different aspects of music, build confidence, and enjoy creative expression.

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.

Within our taught music curriculum, pupils have regular opportunities to perform simple pieces for their peers, applying the knowledge and skills they develop in each unit. They are encouraged to reflect on their own performances and offer constructive feedback on those of others, using the musical vocabulary they have learned.

Throughout the academic year, classes perform for the whole school and parents, showcasing high-quality vocal performances, occasionally accompanied by simple percussion. Reception and Key Stage 1 classes present their performance during Advent, while Year 6 leads a special performance in the Pentecost term. Pupils rehearse a variety of songs during the school day, ensuring they feel confident and prepared for their performances.

As part of our broader musical offering, the entire school takes part in weekly singing practice. During these sessions, pupils learn and perform a diverse selection of songs

from a variety of genres, suitable for all age groups from Reception to Year 6. Pupils often suggest their favourite songs to include in the repertoire, creating a sense of ownership and enthusiasm. We are fortunate to have an accomplished pianist who supports these practices, helping to introduce new songs and ensure a rich learning experience.

Pupils are encouraged to sing in unison, in harmony, and in rounds of varying complexity, developing their confidence and teamwork. Weekly singing practice also includes *Active Music Listening*, where pupils are introduced to composers, artists, and specific genres of music. They are guided to think critically about the music, focusing on aspects such as melody, rhythm, and style.

Twice a year, we celebrate the talents of our young musicians with school-wide concerts. Pupils who play instruments, whether at school or at home, are encouraged to choose their own material to perform for parents and their peers. These concerts also feature classes that learn instruments together as part of their music curriculum, providing a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their progress and develop confidence in performing.

In the future

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

As part of our music provision, we aim to inspire a passion for music in all our pupils, whether through listening, performing, or creating. We believe that live music plays a vital role in engaging pupils and broadening their horizons. To develop their cultural capital, we are committed to providing a wider range of musical events and opportunities for pupils to experience and enjoy diverse genres and performances.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is also being further developed to ensure that a love of music begins with our youngest learners. By embedding music into their experiences, we hope to ignite their curiosity and build the foundations for a lifelong appreciation of music.

Further information (optional)

[Leicestershire Music \(Leicestershire Music Hub\)](#)

[LPME \(Local Plan for Music Education\) Leicestershire Music Hub](#)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how you can get involved in music in and out of school, and where you can go to for support beyond the school.

