

Music development plan summary: St Joseph's Catholic Voluntary Academy



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Clair Dedman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Create Music Ltd

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.

Music is taught weekly across the school and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). Curriculum lessons are carefully planned and delivered in blocks, with learning tailored to the specific needs and progression of each year group. Teaching is supported by specialist planning, and the Music Lead oversees curriculum development, planning, assessment, and monitoring to ensure high-quality musical experiences for all pupils.

In addition to curriculum music lessons, pupils participate in thematic music projects at least twice each year, providing opportunities to explore music through broader cross-curricular themes and cultural experiences.

St Joseph's bespoke music curriculum has been developed and refined over the past five years to reflect the needs of our pupils and the unique ethos of our school. The curriculum is designed to develop musical knowledge, skills, creativity, and appreciation progressively from Early Years through to Year 6.

Alongside classroom music provision, all pupils receive a weekly 45-minute music lesson delivered by a specialist music teacher. These sessions enhance pupils' musical understanding and provide opportunities for performance, composition, listening, and appraisal.

Musical learning is further enriched through a weekly 30-minute hymn practice, enabling pupils to develop their singing skills, confidence, musicality, and participation in the liturgical life of the school.

Each class has the opportunity to learn a range of musical instruments through whole-class ensemble teaching each year. St Joseph's owns all of the instruments used within the curriculum, ensuring equal access for all pupils and supporting progression in musical learning throughout their time at the school.

Children in every year group have opportunities to perform to parents and carers each term, showcasing the musical skills and knowledge they have developed. In addition, pupils participate in performances linked to the Catholic calendar, including Harvest Festival, Christmas celebrations, and Easter services. These performances provide valuable opportunities for children to develop confidence, stage presence, and musicianship while helping families to understand the progression of musical learning across the curriculum.

Key Stage 2 pupils also participate in external choir events and collaborative musical opportunities at least twice each year, allowing them to perform alongside pupils from other schools and experience a wider musical community.

Children across the school benefit from live musical performances and workshops at least once a year, with additional opportunities sought whenever possible to enrich their musical experiences and broaden their cultural understanding.

St Joseph's works in partnership with an external music provider to offer instrumental tuition in guitar, keyboard, and drums from Reception to Year 6. These lessons take place weekly in small-group sessions and provide pupils with the opportunity to further develop their musical interests and talents.

All musical activities and opportunities at St Joseph's are fully inclusive and accessible to pupils of all abilities. Appropriate adaptations are made to teaching, learning activities, and performance opportunities to ensure that every child can participate, achieve success, and make progress in music.

For further information about music provision at St Joseph's, please visit our Music Curriculum page.

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 Joseph's Primary School, pupils have the opportunity to access additional instrumental tuition through our partnerships with Rocksteady Music School and Create Music. Specialist teachers visit the school each week and deliver lessons within our dedicated Music Hub. These small-group sessions provide opportunities for pupils to develop their musical skills and interests beyond the classroom curriculum. Lessons are funded by parents, with support available through Pupil Premium funding or the school's curriculum budget where appropriate.

We are proud to have a thriving Key Stage 2 choir that regularly participates in local singing festivals, concerts, and community events at least twice each year. The choir enjoys strong participation and commitment from pupils, particularly when representing the school at events beyond the school setting.

St Joseph's works closely with the Leicestershire Music Hub to enhance musical opportunities for our pupils and to ensure that children benefit from high-quality musical experiences, resources, and performance opportunities.

We actively celebrate pupils' musical achievements both within and beyond school. Children who have achieved musical qualifications, examinations, awards, or notable accomplishments outside of school are recognised during our weekly celebration assemblies. Parents and carers are invited to attend these assemblies, enabling us to share and celebrate our pupils' successes with the wider school community.

Through our curriculum, enrichment activities, instrumental tuition, choir participation, and performance opportunities, we aim to foster a lifelong love of music and provide every child with the opportunity to develop their musical potential.

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.

At St Joseph's Primary School, music is celebrated beyond the classroom through a rich variety of performances, experiences, and enrichment opportunities throughout the year.

Pupils regularly share their musical learning during celebration assemblies, where classes perform to the school community and families are invited to recognise and enjoy their progress. In addition, music is a key feature of our collective worship, with children singing and performing during class liturgies and whole-school Masses across the academic year.

We provide a wide range of performance opportunities, including seasonal productions such as Nativities in Early Years (FS1 and FS2) and Key Stage 1, as well as Key

Stage 2 Easter and end-of-year performances. These events allow pupils to develop confidence, teamwork, and performance skills in a supportive and purposeful setting.

Our Key Stage 2 choir participates in high-profile events, including the Menphys Christmas Catholic Massed Choir at De Montfort Hall, performing alongside other schools in a large-scale public concert.

Pupils also benefit from instrumental performance opportunities linked to their tuition in ukulele, guitar, and other instruments, enabling them to showcase their progress to peers and families.

To broaden pupils' cultural understanding and appreciation of live music, the school also organises visits to professional performances and theatre experiences, giving children the opportunity to engage with high-quality live music in a variety of settings.

Whole-school enrichment experiences, such as visiting pantomimes delivered by professional companies, further enhance pupils' enjoyment of the arts and contribute to a vibrant musical culture across the school.

In addition, the school celebrates World Music Day annually, providing opportunities for pupils to explore music from different cultures and traditions and to deepen their understanding of music as a global language.

In the future

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

Music Development Plan – Future Aims

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to continue strengthening and broadening musical provision across St Joseph's Primary School through the following priorities:

- To introduce a wider range of instruments for whole-class ensemble teaching, with a particular focus on non-Western musical traditions and global styles of music, supporting pupils' cultural understanding and musical diversity.
- To further develop and strengthen collaboration with the Leicestershire Music Hub, ensuring pupils benefit from high-quality specialist input, resources, and extended performance opportunities.
- To expand access to extra-curricular music provision, with a specific focus on ensuring increased participation and engagement from Pupil Premium (PP) and SEND pupils, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunity in music education.

- To explore and develop opportunities for Forest School and outdoor learning approaches within music, enabling pupils to experience music-making in different environments and through creative, cross-curricular approaches.

These priorities reflect the school's commitment to providing an inclusive, ambitious, and culturally rich music curriculum that enables all pupils to develop a lifelong appreciation of music.