

Music development plan summary: ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC 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	SUMMER 2026
Name of the school music lead	MRS A CLIFFE
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	STOKE CITY MUSIC SERVICE
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.

Music at St Joseph's Catholic Academy is taught by a music specialist teacher through all classes from Nursery to Year 6. The Music scheme of work is planned in line with the National Curriculum expectations so that pupils work progressively to develop their music skills.

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo,

timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 have weekly half-hour lessons and KS2 pupils have weekly hour lessons. All pupils are included in the lessons, with some SEND pupils working with additional adults to support their individual needs. In addition, there is a weekly hymn practice for Years 2 to 6, where pupils sing songs and hymns relating to the liturgical year and also reflecting the Catholic virtues focus of that specific half term.

Pupils in EYFS and KS1 have access to a wide range of percussion instruments which they use to support their learning across the curriculum. In Year 3, recorders are taught to the whole class, allowing all pupils to learn to play a tuned instrument. In Year 4, pupils develop their instrumental skills further by learning to play electronic keyboards. Year 5 and 6 pupils have the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge through the use of ICT.

St Joseph's Catholic Academy has been awarded Gold status by Stoke City Music Service for its music provision, and Silver Artsmark status by the Artsmark Council for arts provision.

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.

Peripatetic instrumental tuition is provided by Stoke City Music Service. School heavily subsidises the fees to include as many pupils as possible, and pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium have free access to tuition. Instruments are available to hire from Stoke City Music Service for lessons. Instruments currently offered for tuition for all Key Stage 2 pupils include violin, cello, trumpet, cornet, trombone, flute, clarinet and guitar, with keyboard lessons for pupils in Years 5 and 6. Pupils learn to play their instruments in small groups arranged by ability.

The music specialist teacher offers free extra-curricular ensembles for Key Stage 2 pupils. Choir rehearses one morning a week before school starts and is open to all pupils in Key Stage 2. Recorder Ensemble rehearses once a week in lunchtime and is offered to pupils in Years 4 to 6 in the Autumn term, with the option for Year 3 pupils to join in the Spring term when they have developed some knowledge of recorder playing through their whole class teaching. More experienced and older pupils are invited to perform using tenor recorders.

Outside of school, Stoke City Music Service offer a range of free ensembles for pupils to join, led by peripatetic music teachers. These include City Youth Choir (Intermediate

and Senior), Fun 4 Strings (Beginner Strings), Super String Sounds (Intermediate Strings), City Youth String Orchestra (Senior Strings), City Youth Recorder Ensemble, Blast Off! (Beginner Wind), Concert Band (Intermediate Wind), City Youth Wind Orchestra (Senior Wind), Sound Wave and Rock and Pop.

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.

School provides many opportunities for pupils to perform and demonstrate their musical skills and progress. Singing is a regular part of communal worship and praise assemblies. Songs are learnt in class to support learning in other subjects, for example, times tables or science facts.

There are two annual whole school events to which parents are invited to attend. At Christmas the whole school performs in the Carol Service in church. This is a liturgy of readings and songs, retelling the story of the Nativity, including traditional carols for our audience to join in with. Some songs have additional instrumental parts. At the end of the Summer term, all classes learn individual and massed songs with a common theme which they perform to an audience of family and friends. Choir and Recorder Ensemble perform as part of both concerts.

At Christmas, EYFS and KS1 perform nativity plays to their families. At the end of the Spring term, Years 5 and 6 perform Born for This, a Lenten liturgy which retells the story of the Stations of the Cross, to pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4. Year 6 rehearse for and perform their own choice of musical at the end of the academic year.

Peripatetic instrumental pupils perform to their peers and families in the Spring or Summer term, with an informal concert to show their progress. This is supported by the Stoke City Music Service, and pupils from Year 2 also watch to learn about the instruments and be inspired to enrol for tuition when they reach Year 3.

Choir regularly perform in the local community, including carol singing at the hospital and termly visits to care homes. They perform annually as part of a massed choir in the Young Voices concerts in Birmingham and as an individual choir at the Mitchell Memorial Theatre. Choirs from across the collegiate perform as a massed choir at end of term concerts at St Margaret Ward Catholic College.

Recorder Ensemble performs annually at the Recorder Festival at the Victoria Hall.

In addition, pupils in both Key Stages participate where possible in online and in person events, including Royal Opera House workshops and concerts performed by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Halle Orchestra.

In the future

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

As a school, we are continually looking for ways to further our arts provision and achieve Gold Artsmark status, and hope to establish new partnerships over the next year with external providers.

Further develop the use of ICT in music in Years 5 and 6.