

Music development plan summary: St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr J Smithson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs A Steele
Name of local music hub	Sunderland Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Vision and Intent

At St Cuthbert's, our intent is that every pupil is a musician, developing as a performer, singer, and composer; with the ability to listen and to critically analyse music. The National Curriculum is at the heart of the document, developing incremental improvement lesson by lesson and building on the ambition of the Model Music Curriculum.

Singing is a "Golden Thread" (National Plan for Music Education) ensuring that pupils sing and develop their technique every lesson. Pupils will develop deep musical knowledge of music through demonstrating the musical skills they have learnt. All pupils enjoy our weekly singing assembly which gives them an opportunity to be part of a large choral ensemble.

The three pillars of learning; technical, constructive, and expressive are all embedded through practical music making and analysis. By giving explicit singing and listening examples we are making sure that pupils are exposed to a breadth of musical styles and genres, embedding the work of the great composers as key artists in that particular style.

High quality music teaching is our goal, making sure that there is progression between all Key stages, ensuring standard use of vocabulary and being explicit in the musical knowledge and skills pupils will learn by the end of KS2, ensuring continued high-quality music teaching at Key stage 3 through deeply embedded skills. Repetition and incremental improvement are key to effective music learning, making sure that deep knowledge is embedded and that pupils don't purely experience music.

Our class teachers are experts in adapting our curriculum to meet the needs of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, and these bespoke adaptations ensure that music can be enjoyed by all.

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is inclusive for all learners and music is taught consistently for every year group every week across the year and is within every timetable.

Music is taught weekly, with each class participating in 1 x 60minute lessons. Music Specialists from Musical Mates teach for one day a week to teach Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Class Teachers deliver the music curriculum in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2.

During Music lessons at St Cuthbert's, children have the opportunity to play recorders, ukulele, xylophones and a range of percussion instruments as whole class instrumental learning (CIL). Children also have the opportunity to sing and perform a range of songs.

The school music curriculum is broken down into the 7 threshold concepts:

1. Pitch
2. Rhythm
3. Melody
4. Active listening and appraising
5. Performing
6. Singing.
7. Composition

Our progress map demonstrates the expected outcome for each pupil at the end of year group, giving clear outcomes based on Technical, constructive, and expressive skills. This will be achieved overtime through repetition of exercises. See below.

Through toolkits linked to this progress map we teach music through 4 identified components which cover the knowledge, skills and understanding set out the National Curriculum and Foundation Stage Statutory Framework.

Each toolkit contains 4 components, each containing key skills (such as singing, listening, and composing) to develop as musicians.

Pupils will be able performers moving from confidence in Rhythm and pulse in Year 1 and 2, Pitch and Melody in Year 3 and 4 and then developing a rounded musician at Year 5 and 6.

Pupils will sing, perform, compose, and appraise confidently having been nurtured as musicians.

Controlling the sound is key to pupils demonstrating their development and ability as musicians, having more control and the intent of the music.

We teach music to all children in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to need of children with barriers to their learning and our work in music considers the targets set for individual children in their support plans.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School receives subsidy from a Primary Music SLA in return for Data in how we deliver Music across school. The Primary Music SLA supports schools to deliver a broad and ambitious music curriculum. Funding received from the Primary Music SLA allows school to fund for Music specialists, alongside parental funding to provide guitar for children in Year 3, 4, 5, and 6. Guitar and drum lessons are also available weekly to children in Key Stage 2 who request them. Extra-curricular music lessons cost £5 per lesson. Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium receive the lessons for a cost of £2.50 per lesson. All extra-curricular music lessons are available for our SEND and Pupil Premium children if they wish to participate. Children who participate in extra-curricular music activities have access to the school hall and extra classrooms in school to rehearse and practise their skills.

To raise the profile and further engage our children in Music we also offer a range activity throughout the year.

We use the whole school's skills to perform in the Christmas Productions singing and whole school assemblies. The music played during assemblies and Celebration of the word encourages children to sing and perform.

We endeavour to be supportive of all children studying for formal gradings of Music and offer timetable variations where necessary to help with these. Our pupil premium grant funding is always targeted and spent on a bespoke basis which includes, where requested, funding lessons or instrument hire for children wanting to access such.

Music outcomes are often shared and performed either live to parents/carers, parishioners, other pupils or recorded and shared with families via Facebook and Class Dojo.

Part C: Musical Enrichment

To raise the profile and further engage our children in Music we also offer a range of musical experiences throughout the year such as:

- Children experience live music through live bands subsidised by the Primary Music SLA
- Through St Cuthbert's partnership with Sunderland Music Hub, Year 3 will have the opportunity to participate in Sunderland Sings at the Sunderland Empire, performing a range of songs to an audience.
- Year 5 & 6 take the lead performances in the Musical Christmas Production which plays to 2 audiences of parents and carers. Whilst Early Years and KS1 perform their own musical Christmas Play for parents & carers. Children in Year 3 & 4 perform a Christmas Liturgy with Christmas songs and Carols for an audience of parents and carers.
- Year 6 also perform Stations of The Cross for both Parents/Carers and members of our local Parish Churches.
- As part of the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust our children also have the opportunity to be part of Trust wide choral ensembles and have performed at both Durham Cathedral and Rainton Arena. We work closely with a local singer/songwriter to explore our local history and heritage through storytelling and song. Our next project is entitled 'Read it, Write it, Tell it, Love it' and will involve bringing the children and Parents/Grandparents/Parishioners of our schools together to tell the story of our industrial heritage through story and song.

In the future

Curriculum Music:

- Increase use of recordings for reflection and self-evaluation.
- Staff CPD and training on use of iPad/recording and what to use for it.
- Create, share and embed list of questions to use for reflecting critically on learning.
- Create a Music display in school to support learning – clear elements with appropriate language, including skills, rhythm and school terminology.

Extra-Curricular Music

Identify a member of staff able to lead an afterschool Music club

Music Enrichment

- Look for opportunities to attend city ensemble events, especially for Key Stage 1.