

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

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	28.1.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Mandy Thompson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Bernadette Dabbs/Tom Hooley
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	MHEH

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.

Every child from Foundation to Year 6 is taught music as a stand-alone lesson each week, including singing, with a specialist music teacher. We feel that constant practice and repetition of skills allows these to go into long-term memory and allows our children to be able to become more confident in building their knowledge and understanding of music. Our music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and planned accordingly. This means that children have regular access to singing a wide variety of songs, playing a wide variety of instruments, creating different types of music and listening to a wide variety of music. Often, curriculum music is the gateway to children finding an interest or talent for music and wanting to pursue it further by learning how to play specific instruments. Therefore, in Year 3, children have the opportunity to learn the dood free of charge, which is a good starting point for learning the clarinet. Pupil premium children then get the opportunity to continue learning this instrument. Year 2 learn how to play the ocarinas as a whole class which

gives every child the opportunity to learn an instrument. Children who have found an interest or talent with this can then join ocarina club which is delivered as a small group. Year 3, 4 and 5 are taught recorders as a whole class and also have access to recorder clubs- beginners and intermediate meaning they can make good progress. In Year 6, children learn how to play the keyboard as a whole class. We believe that this allows children to have an advantage when they move into secondary school. All Key Stage 2 children also learn how to play the boomwhackers ensuring that every child has an opportunity to learn both a percussion and two woodwind instruments.

Children in Key Stage 2 receive one block of Caspers which is musical theatre delivered by an outside, specialist teacher. Children learn to sing and perform songs over a number of weeks and then perform these to parents/guardians, developing children's confidence and giving every child the experience of performing.

We partner with MHEH through our local secondary and primary schools where our Music lead networks with these schools to share what happens in our school and to get ideas from them. We are part of the Leicestershire Music Hub which gives us access to training and resources as well as giving us a contact where support is needed. We are also part of Music Mark, which also gives us resources and access to training.

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 children have access to a wide range of music tuition through specialist teachers. This is delivered in large or small groups and 1:1. We have a well-established choir of children from Year 4 to Year 6, who learn and perform a range of modern and contemporary songs ranging in difficulty. They regularly sing in our Parish, in our community, at local residential homes and perform once a year at De Montfort Hall. Our choir often collaborates with other schools in our Trust. These opportunities enable the children to have fantastic experiences and enjoy the feeling of performing.

The children who take part in extra-curricular music lessons, also have the opportunity to perform for parents through our music concerts that happen twice a year. These are always well attended and are a real celebration of their progress and music at St. Joseph's as a whole. This allows children to perform alongside other children in an ensemble. Along with singing, the instruments our children can learn in school are: guitar, drums, clarinet, flute, piano, dood, violin, viola, ocarinas and recorders. These are taught by specialist teachers and are enthusiastically taken up. Some instruments are available to loan free of charge from school. Access to the Leicestershire Music Hub also allows our children to loan instruments for a much reduced rate, meaning all children can access an instrument if required.

Some of the music lessons are free whilst others are paid for. These are sometimes subsidised by the school where children receive Pupil Premium funding and show a keen interest in learning to play an instrument. We also have a shared music room where whole class, group and individuals can learn in an effective environment.

Through charitable donations from the Market Harborough Educational Trust we are able to offer bursaries to children who are keen to learn an instrument, but where finances can be a barrier. The Trust have also funded group lessons, such as the dood club in Year 3, which provides a valuable opportunity for children to experience learning to play an instrument.

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.

We try to give children a range of opportunities to experience music in different forms. Some classes visit the local Secondary School to watch their performances. These include orchestral, musical theatre or choir performances, which inspire our children. It means we also see lots of past pupils who have continued their musical journey into secondary school. We attend the LEAP Ensemble Birmingham Conservatoire every year put on at our local secondary school. We attend Welland Park Music day where we take instrumentalists and rehearse alongside fellow musicians from other schools, culminating in an ensemble at the end open to parents. We have visiting musicians who perform for the children, as well as African drumming workshops who teach children how to play.

Every year group carries out one performance per year. In EYFS and Key Stage 1 this is a version of the Nativity. In Year 3 and 4, this is a performance of the Passion of Christ Play and in Year 5 and 6, this is the end of year production which can range from Matilda to We Will Rock You. Music and singing plays a huge part in each production.

Whole school singing is weekly and our children often sing in Mass and assembly. Our choir sing around the community, including things as various as funerals, the carol service and in the market square.

In the future

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

We are working on encouraging more SEND and Pupil Premium children to take up learning an instrument. We want this to continue and increase.

We have introduced the learning of the Keyboard in Year 6 in order to prepare our children for secondary school. We aim to develop this further.

We aim to give our children who are learning instruments more opportunities to perform in an ensemble through adding this to our biannual music concert.

We continue to strive for excellence through our thorough and well-mapped out music curriculum, aiming for our children to know more and be able to do more.

Further information

For more information as to how parents/carers can get more involved in music outside school, the DFE have provided the following guide. [guide for parents and young people](#)

Our local music hub also provides more information here: [Music Outside School - Leicestershire Music](#) This includes information on how to hire musical instruments at discounted prices.