

Music Development Plan - St Catherine's CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr David Mottershead
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

At our school, music education is delivered through three key areas: **curriculum music**, **co-curricular provision**, and **musical experiences**. This summary provides pupils, parents, and carers with an understanding of what we offer in each area, as well as the external partners we collaborate with to support our students' musical journeys. It also outlines the changes we plan to implement in the coming years to further enhance music education at our school.

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 Education at St Catherine's Primary School

At St Catherine's, music is an essential part of our foundation curriculum and is delivered through engaging, structured lessons across all year groups, from Reception to Year 6.

Curriculum Music

Charanga Music Scheme: Every year group follows the Charanga Music Scheme, ensuring a consistent development of musical skills, vocabulary, and opportunities. This structured program allows students to progress year after year in a cohesive manner.

Lesson Structure: Music lessons are scheduled for 60 to 90 minutes and occur weekly over one half-term each term. Each year group completes one unit of study per term.

Instrumental Learning: In Years 1, 4, and 5, students engage in whole-class ensemble learning with instruments such as the glockenspiel, recorder, and violin. Each child is provided with their own instrument and given time to practice individually and within a group setting.

Composing and Performing: The Charanga scheme emphasizes using the voice and various tuned and untuned instruments. Students are also encouraged to compose their own melodies and motifs, with opportunities to revisit their compositions. These are recorded through both formal staff notation and informal transcription methods.

Additional Resources

Music Heads Resource: Developed by our Music Lead and used across multiple cluster schools, Music Heads supports the Charanga scheme by offering students opportunities to listen to and evaluate a diverse range of musical genres. This resource helps children develop critical listening skills and understand how musical features such as tempo, dynamics, timbre, and rhythm affect the tone of a piece.

Musical Evaluation: Using the Model Music Curriculum as a guide, pupils are taught to articulate their understanding of music both verbally and in writing, using accurate musical vocabulary.

Future Plans

To further enhance music education at St Catherine's, we are planning future changes that will deepen our students' experience and broaden their exposure to different aspects of music. More details will be shared with pupils and parents/carers as these plans are finalised.

Part B: Extra-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.

Co-Curricular Music Opportunities at St Catherine's Primary School

At St Catherine's, we offer a wide range of music tuition and activities beyond the classroom to nurture and enhance our pupils' musical skills. These include one-to-one tuition, group performances, and opportunities to join various ensembles and singing groups.

Music Tuition Outside of Lesson Time

One-to-One Instrumental Lessons: Pupils can access individual tuition for **guitar** and **violin**. For those who do not own their own instrument, the school provides both guitars and violins, ensuring that every child can participate. As part of our commitment to inclusivity, 1:1 tuition is offered free of charge to pupils who meet the criteria for **Pupil Premium** funding.

Group and Ensemble Performances

Performance Opportunities: Throughout the year, all year groups have the chance to perform in a range of venues, including the local church, school hall, and even on the main stage at the local town hall. These performances, particularly at Christmas, include productions or carol services where children sing in small groups or as part of larger ensembles.

Pupils who learn instruments also perform in front of younger year groups to give them a "taster" of what they will be learning in the upcoming year.

Choirs and Singing Groups: St Catherine's runs various singing clubs and groups, providing children with the opportunity to sing together. These clubs focus on singing in harmony, as well as in unison, and aim to build confidence and teamwork through musical expression.

Singing in Worship: Singing is an integral part of daily worship, with pupils singing as they enter and leave the hall. These songs are taught during **whole-school singing assemblies**, allowing all pupils to sing together and helping younger children memorize songs through actions and repetition.

Progression in Music Outside of Lesson Time

Instrument Loans: For pupils interested in learning guitar or violin, St Catherine's offers an **instrument loan scheme**, ensuring that every child can access an instrument, regardless of their personal circumstances.

Additional Music Provision: While there is no current mention of weekend or holiday music provision, the regular opportunities for pupils to perform and engage with music in various ensembles, along with instrumental tuition, provide a rich environment for musical development.

Musical Qualifications and Awards: Although formal qualifications and awards aren't mentioned explicitly, our varied musical program gives students the foundation to pursue graded exams or other recognitions in the future, particularly through their instrumental learning and ensemble work.

Future Developments

We are always looking to expand our co-curricular music provision, with potential plans to introduce more instrumental options, extend singing groups, and explore formal qualification pathways for pupils wishing to take their music education to the next level.

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.

Musical Performances and Events at St Catherine's Primary School

Music is a central part of our school's community, and we provide numerous opportunities for pupils to participate in and enjoy musical performances throughout the year. Whether as performers or audience members, students from all year groups engage with live music and theatre, helping to foster a love for the arts.

School Productions and Performances

Christmas Productions: Every year group takes part in a Christmas production, which integrates singing, dancing, and acting. These performances are held in front of live audiences, including fellow pupils, parents, and school staff. They are designed to build confidence and teamwork while showcasing each child's musical and performing talents.

Whole-School Worship Songs: During daily worship, all pupils participate in singing sessions. The songs are chosen from a rotating bank of familiar pieces, with actions added to help younger children engage and remember the lyrics. These songs are practiced regularly during **singing worship sessions**.

External Theatre and Musical Performances

M&M Theatrical Productions: To enrich the students' experience of live theatre, we invite **M&M Theatrical Productions**, a local theatre group, to perform a pantomime at Christmas and a special show at the end of the academic year. These performances are a highlight for the whole school, providing both enjoyment and exposure to live drama and musical theatre.

Orchestra and Ensemble Opportunities

Young People's Orchestra with Severn Arts: Through our partnership with **Severn Arts**, St Catherine's serves as a base for a young people's orchestra that meets once a week. Pupils who receive one-to-one instrumental tuition, such as those learning guitar or violin, are given the opportunity to join the orchestra and experience playing in a large group ensemble. This initiative supports their musical development and offers a sense of belonging to a wider musical community.

Participation and Involvement

In-School Concerts and Shows: Throughout the year, pupils from various year groups are encouraged to participate in school concerts, productions, and music performances. Students who are learning instruments often perform in front of their peers, while whole-school singing assemblies and group performances give every child the chance to be involved.

Audience Engagement: In addition to performing, pupils are also part of live audiences for events such as the Christmas pantomime and end-of-year shows. These experiences allow children to appreciate the efforts of their peers and professionals, contributing to their understanding of live performance.

In the future

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

Music Opportunities for the 2024/25 Academic Year

At St Catherine's, we continue to expand our musical offerings to provide new and exciting opportunities for our pupils. The 2024/25 academic year will bring several unique events and experiences for children to develop and showcase their musical talents.

Young Voices Participation

This year, a group of pupils will have the exciting opportunity to take part in **Young Voices**, the largest children's choir concert in the world. As part of their involvement, the children will rehearse the songs during their regular **singing club** sessions, preparing for a memorable performance in front of a large audience. This opportunity will not only enhance their singing abilities but also allow them to experience performing as part of a massive ensemble with children from other schools.

Harvest Service Performance

A group of pupils will represent St Catherine's at the **Harvest Service** hosted by the local Mayor of Kidderminster. This community event will give our children the chance to perform a selection of songs as part of the celebration, offering them valuable performance experience and the opportunity to engage with the local community.

Music Workshop Initiative

Our **music coordinators** are currently exploring the possibility of bringing a **music workshop** to the school, where specialist musicians would work with each year group. This workshop would expose all children to a broader range of music and instruments, providing hands-on learning experiences from experts in their respective fields. This initiative is designed to deepen pupils' musical knowledge and inspire them to explore new instruments and styles of music.

Further information

Local Music Hub - <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/>

Guidance for parents and young people wanting to get into music -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>