

Music Development Plan: St. Nicholas Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Partnership Services for Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Birmingham Arts School (BAS) Music Express

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.

At St Nicholas, we follow the Music Express Curriculum Scheme. Each year group follows the lessons on the scheme and key vocabulary has been embedded into lessons for each year group. Each month the children are exposed to a Composer of the Month during one music lesson. Music lessons are taught weekly for 30 minutes in total.

Our intent is to deliver a broad and balanced Music curriculum that is ambitious, challenging, engaging and progressive. Our objective is for all of our children, including those who are disadvantaged or SEND, to develop a curiosity for music, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music.

In alliance with the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), as a school we provide all children with the opportunity to learn to sing a range of songs, listen to a variety of music and both compose and perform songs using their voices and instruments. The children are exposed to musical vocabulary during lessons.

Moreover, during lessons the children across all year groups have the opportunity to play an instrument. Foundation Year are exposed to a variety of instruments during lessons and are free to explore them independently. From year 1 up to year 6, when composing and performing the children learn to play along to a variety of songs.

We celebrate World Music Day as a school each year, which involves year groups being paired with one another and performing a chosen song to the other year group. We have fortnightly 'Songs of Praise' sessions led by a member of school teaching staff which supports pupils to learn hymns and songs for worship and liturgy opportunities. We also perform at school events including our KS2 Easter Passion Play, KS1 Nativity Play, Care Home Christmas Concert and PFA Fundraising events.

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 our school children have the opportunity to learn an instrument during extra-curriculum music lessons for the following instruments: violin, piano, drums, flute, clarinet and guitar. The lessons take place in a variety of rooms across the school with specialist music teachers.

The instrumental lessons we offer are at an additional cost to parents. We charge £300 per academic year for one child to learn an instrument. This promises them a minimum of 30 lessons, where they are taught in small groups or individually. The Music Service charge £55 per hour for their specialist music tutors. As part of their tuition, children progress towards national examinations which are celebrated in our Gifts from God Assembly when achieved.

In Year 4, we have Whole Class Instrument Teaching where every child learns to play the guitar. We have termly music concerts led by the specialist music teachers where parents are invited to watch their child perform what they have been learning.

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.

Throughout the year, our children are provided with several opportunities to showcase their vocal abilities such as learning carols to perform during carol concerts at the school and local care homes, performing hymns at Masses and Sacramental Masses, performing Christmas carols and songs at a local care home and having the opportunity to perform at the Young Voices concert with many other schools. At the Young Voices concert the children also get the opportunity to see well known artists perform on the stage.

In the future

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

During lessons this academic year our focus is to ensure that the children are being challenged through exposure to musical vocabulary, that they experience composition and are also exposed to a range of composers/artists from across the world through 'Musician of the month'.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.