

Music development plan summary: Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Elizabeth Amison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Service, Staffordshire, part of The Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service. Part of The Music Partnership

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.

Our curriculum annual overview and the Newman Catholic Collegiate Skills Progression Document is published on our school website. The bespoke curriculum, which draws on resources such as [Ten Pieces from the BBC](#) and [Classical 200 by ABRSM](#), is closely aligned to the Department for Education's [model music curriculum](#). It includes progressive singing development informed by Kodaly's principles as found in the work of Voices Foundation (which operated from 1993 to 2024) and [NYCOS, The National Youth Choir of Scotland](#) throughout years 1 to 6 and also focuses on rhythm work in key stage 1, melody in lower key stage 2 and harmony in upper key stage 2, underpinned by a deepening understanding of the inter-related dimensions of music. Equal use of the three pillars of the curriculum (technical, constructive and expressive),

is fundamental to the structuring of activities and the schemes of work are designed to continuously deepen musicianship.

All pupils take part in music lessons and are supported and encouraged to participate in extra-curricular musical activities.

Children in key stage 1 have a weekly 30-minute lesson with a specialist music teacher and learn other songs with their class teaching staff to support learning in other subjects.

In Year 3 and 4, all children have a weekly 30-minute curriculum lesson with the music specialist teacher and also have a separate 30-minute lesson learning an instrument with the school music specialist or a peripatetic teacher from the music Hub in a large group of 8-15 students. In Year 3, children learn the recorder. In Year 4, the children continue to develop recorder skills within some curriculum topics and they also make a choice between brass or upper string instruments.

In Year 5 and 6, all children have a 30-minute curriculum lesson with the specialist music teacher. This includes an embedded ukulele course to support learning about harmony in Year 5 and ensemble tasks using ukuleles, recorders and glockenspiels in Year 6. Upper key stage 2 singing is supported by participation in the Lichfield Cathedral MusicShare Project.

Part B: Extra-curricular music activities and lessons

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.

Beyond our whole class provision, small group instrumental tuition is offered by 3 specialist teachers in woodwind, brass and string instruments. These instrument groups are offered because there is a clear pathway to a professional career, through the provision at our collegiate high school, St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy which includes many co-curricular ensembles and relevant qualifications. Whilst in our school, children have the option to take ABRSM Medal assessments in school with their teacher, or be prepared to take ABRSM or Trinity grade examinations at external exam centres when they have progressed sufficiently.

From year 3, children can elect to learn woodwind instruments in small group settings. Brass and string small group lessons are offered from year 5 after the universal first access lessons are completed in year 4. A parental contribution is sought for elective lessons, but the school also subsidises a proportion of the lesson fee for all children; full funding is available, according to need.

Instruments are available to loan from the school (violins) or the music service (all other instruments). Lessons are charged via a monthly standing order and pupil premium children's lessons are fully subsidised. Parents are asked to purchase books and consumables such as strings, rosin, and reeds. The Music teacher can advise about [funding schemes available](#) to support lower income families and children in care through the Entrust Music Service, Friends of Staffordshire Young Musicians and Young Sounds UK. Entrust Music Service can also advise about provision of extra music lessons for children in care through the virtual school.

After school, Children in years 1 to 3 can choose to participate in the City Music Service Songbirds choir (currently joining sessions remotely via Teams). Children from Year 4 upwards can join the school choir which makes visits to the local community and also performs as part of the [Young Voices Concert](#) and the Newman Collegiate Choir. Advanced instrumentalists can join the high school orchestra by invitation and there is a recorder club in the Spring term for those who wish to develop their skills further and try larger recorders.

All children have access to the [free evening ensembles](#) provided by the City Music Service at the Bridge centre in Birches Head and [Saturday morning groups](#) run by Entrust Music Service in several Staffordshire locations. The music teacher can also advise about a variety of other workshops / independent groups in the region e.g. [Youth Projects at RNCM](#) and nationally e.g. [The National Children's Choir of Great Britain](#).

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.

There is a myriad of musical experiences for children at our school.

Autumn term

Harvest Festival Singing Assembly for all classes in schools

Year 5 MusicShare Project at Lichfield Cathedral (parental contribution for transport)

City Songbirds Concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

EYFS and key stage 1 nativity performances

Key Stage 2 carol service

Choir perform carols at a local care home and / or the hospital

Christmas term music assembly featuring soloists and choirs.

Spring Term

Young Voices concert (Contributions for travel, spectators need to purchase tickets)

Recorder Festival (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

EYFS Easter Bonnet Parade singing

Summer Term

WCET Celebration concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

Halle Orchestra Concert visit (children to watch a free concert, contributions for travel)

City Songbirds concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

School Summer Concert with singing and instrumental performances by all classes and pupils (free)

Collegiate Choir performance at St Margaret Ward Summer Concert (free to participate, spectators need to purchase tickets)

Year 5 Music transition lessons at St Margaret Ward

Year 6 instrumentalists transition introductory lessons with peripatetic teachers from St Margaret Ward

In the future

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

- A review of composition tasks in Key Stage 1 to ensure there is clear progression through the key stage.
- An increase in the use of glockenspiels in upper key stage 2 performance skills tasks.
- Continue to review the curriculum content and resources to ensure representation of diverse musical styles.
- Continue to work with SLT to find ways to increase curriculum time in light of the National Plan recommended guidance of timetabled curriculum music to be at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- Continue to monitor the access to instrumental lessons across a range of student groups (SEND, Cic, PP) and continue to encourage take-up of lessons after WCET finishes.
- Sustain the full programme of annual trips and events, being creative about sourcing transport to keep parental contribution requests to a minimum.

- Seek to establish a Key Stage 1 singing group with in-person sessions.

Further information (optional)

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.