Music Development Plan 2026-2027
St. James' Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Anna Gibbons
Name of local music hub	Lancashire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Lancashire Music Hub

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. James' music is taught for one hour per week from Reception to Year 6. Music for children in Nursery (age 2-4) is threaded through all aspects of the curriculum and is available for children to access during quality continuous provision.

Music is fundamental to our humanity and civilization. Every child deserves the opportunity to engage with music of all styles and from all cultures, in order to develop their own musical journey. At St. James' we adopt the Charanga creative music scheme. This provides clearly sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, and engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with 'I Can' statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids. This scheme supports all the requirements of the National Curriculum: listening, singing, playing, composing, improvising and performing. This scheme can also be used in line with the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum from the DfE.

This Scheme of Work is built on the following principles:

● Children will develop their skills in inquiry and critical thinking.

● Children will begin to feel and learn about social connectivity.

● Children will learn about and deepen their musical understanding and connect this with their place in their community.

● Children will become globally aware and understand what it means to become a citizen of the world.

● Songs and singing lie at the heart of the learning process.

● An authentic musical experience is at the heart of musical learning.

● At each age and stage of development, musical learning is drawn from engaging with the songs in each unit.

● The scheme is fun, modern, inclusive and engaging.

● The scheme is flexible and can be used as a structured approach to music teaching or can be turned into a customised model for an individual school or class.

● The scheme will help children to understand and connect with different styles of music from various cultures, particularly where cultures intersect.

● Children will gain an understanding of historical and cultural contexts related to music.

● Children will form their own musical opinions and learn to make their own musical decisions.

Opportunities to learn and play and instrument:

- Children in Key Stage One are taught to play the recorder with the support of school music lead (Mrs Gibbons).

Children in KS2 are taught to play the glockenspiel with the support of school music lead (Mrs Gibbons).

Further information including: curriculum overviews, music action plans and information relating to how we increase access for disabled pupils and those pupils with SEND can be found on the school website.

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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.

- St. James currently offer Rocksteady as an opportunity for children to be part of a band outside of lesson time. Rocksteady is the leading provider of in-school band lessons for primary age children. Their inclusive approach helps children find a sense of belonging through new friendships and a shared love for music, whilst boosting social skills, wellbeing and confidence. The sessions takes place weekly and performances are held every term for parents and the rest of the school. Children have the opportunity to play a number of instruments including: guitar, drums and keyboard as well as becoming lead singers of their very own band. Although this is a subscription service the company also offer bursaries for disadvantaged children. School also have the opportunity to match fund for any family who are not in the position to pay for this service.
- One to one music tuition is available from an external agency.
- St. James' have an established choir consisting of approximately 30 children (Years 3-6). The choir is led by Mrs Bell and Mrs Blacoe and meet every Thursday evening after school to practise. As well as performing regularly during school events and assemblies, the choir perform frequently throughout the school year at external events such as: The Royal Culinary Society's Charity Gala; West Lancs College Christmas Fair, Concourse shopping centre's Bright Star Carol event, Young Voices at the AO arena and performances for the local care home. The choir is a free club to join and the

choir hold several fundraising events throughout the year to pay for things such as transport costs. The pupil premium champion (Mrs Bell) encourages disadvantaged children join and any payments (such as those for transport/t-shirts) are subsidised.
- Joint Music lead (Mrs Gibbons) runs a recorder club for Year 3 children. This is a free club and instruments are provided.

Part C: Musical Events and Performances

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.

- Children sing in assembly every Monday afternoon.
- Children listen to and sing a variety of religious songs and hymns during daily collective worship.
- Children have opportunities to watch live music performances. Annually, children in Year 3 and 4 attended Liverpool Royal Philharmonic Hall to listen to the live orchestra and the whole school attended the pantomime in St Helens.
- During the summer, school hold an annual music event whereby each class perform a song for the school community. This is often themed e.g. through the decades or Royal links such as the Jubilee/Coronation.
- Children in Nursery (age 2-4) perform a medley of songs both at Christmas and during a summer festival for families.
- Reception children perform at a Christmas celebration – families are invited to attend.
- Children in Year 1 and 2 perform in a Nativity for the whole school community.
- Year 3, 4 and 5 perform an Easter play for the school community.
- Year 6 perform in an end of year performance for their peers, teachers and families.
- All children in the school perform at a Christmas coffee morning for grandparents and parishioners each year.
- Throughout the year, each class present a spotlight assembly for parents. All of these assemblies include a song.

In the future

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

- New subject leader to develop and implement a bespoke curriculum that is both engaging and progressive.
- Improve staff subject knowledge so that the delivery of the curriculum is the best offer for all children.
- Continue to master a bank of songs that can be sang at many events though out the year – whole school and choir.