



+ St Alban's Catholic Primary School

Music Development Plan

Detail	Information
Academic year	2024-25
Published date	September 2024
Review date	July 2025
School music lead	Carol Hill
Local music hub	Music Partnership North

Curriculum

Our music curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils receive a comprehensive and inclusive music education that meets the expectations of the National Curriculum and the National Plan for Music Education. The curriculum aims to give children the opportunity to perform, listen to, review, and evaluate music from a wide range of historical periods, genres, styles, and traditions, including the works of great composers and musicians.

Throughout their time at school, children will learn use their voices, and create and compose music both individually and collaboratively. They will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, with all KS1 children learning the glockenspiel, while KS2 children learn the trumpet and ukulele.

With a focus on the interrelated dimensions of music, such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and musical notation, the Charanga Model Scheme supports this progression, ensuring that lessons are both engaging and educational for all children.

In EYFS, children follow a bespoke music curriculum that encourages early exploration of these musical elements through singing, movement, and basic instrumental play. By the time they reach KS2, we aim to equip pupils with the skills to perform and compose music confidently, ready to progress to further musical opportunities.

This well-rounded approach is designed to inspire a lifelong love of music and provide children with the skills they need to express themselves creatively and confidently. As a school, we work closely with our local music hub, Music Partnership North. They provide tuition for pupils, workshop and performance opportunities and CPD for staff.

Teaching Sequence

In EYFS, music lessons are centered around exploration and play. Children sing, explore untuned percussion, and move to music, helping them develop early rhythmic and pitch skills. In KS1 and KS2, each music lesson follows a structured sequence designed to build a wide range of skills. Lessons begin with an "understanding music" or improvisation task, where pupils are introduced to different musical concepts. This is followed by active listening, during which children are exposed to various genres, artists, and pieces of music. Pupils will then discuss the music in relation to the

interrelated dimensions of music, such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, and structure.

Each lesson concludes with the opportunity for pupils to perform what they have learned, either individually or as a group. At the end of each unit, pupils have the opportunity to perform their work to an audience, allowing them to share their learning and experience the joy of performance. They also evaluate their performance, reflecting on their strengths and areas for improvement, helping them set goals for future musical development.

Assessment

Assessment in music is ongoing and based on the children's progress. In EYFS, we observe how engaged the children are during music activities, focusing on their ability to stay in rhythm and match pitch. In KS1, assessment is based on how well children can recognise different pitches and perform simple songs.

In KS2, we assess instrumental skills, performance confidence, and ability to read musical notation. The Charanga Model Scheme helps guide assessment, as it provides clear learning objectives for each stage. Children are encouraged to reflect on their own progress and provide feedback to their peers. Performances may be recorded to track improvement and guide further learning.

Extracurricular Activities

We offer an after-school ukulele club led by a specialist from Music Hub Newcastle, allowing children to build their skills and perform in a relaxed setting. Students also participate in local music festivals, gaining confidence and exposure to different musical styles.

The school choir collaborates with other schools, further developing vocal skills and fostering teamwork. We also signpost children to additional musical opportunities outside of school, such as lessons and ensembles, to support continued musical growth.

Musical Performances

Music is an important part of our school life, and we offer many chances for children to perform. In class assemblies, children often take part in musical performances for their peers and families. These performances help children build confidence and showcase their progress.

The school also holds seasonal concerts, such as Christmas and end-of-year performances, where all children have a chance to sing or play in front of a larger audience.

We also encourage children to take part in local music events which allows them to perform alongside other schools and experience larger musical communities. In addition, Year 6 perform each summer at the Big Gig, giving them a special opportunity to showcase their musical talents in a larger, public setting. Our school choir leads singing in special school Masses and aims to take part in termly community choir events.