



St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Music Policy 2026-2029

Reviewed: September 2026

Next Review: September 2029

Subject Leader: Laura Concannon

Intent

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we believe that music is a powerful form of expression which enriches children's lives and contributes to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Through our Catholic ethos, we encourage all pupils to develop a lifelong love of music by participating in a wide range of musical experiences.

Our aim is that every child will:

- Sing confidently and with enjoyment.*
- Learn to play a musical instrument.*
- Compose, improvise and perform music.*
- Listen to and appraise music from a wide range of cultures, traditions and periods.*
- Develop resilience, creativity, teamwork and self-confidence.*
- Experience the joy of performance and musical achievement.*

We are committed to ensuring that every child has access to high-quality music provision and leaves St Mary's with the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to continue their musical journey. This builds upon the school's established Charanga curriculum, Music Mark status and extensive instrumental opportunities.

Implementation

Curriculum Music

Music is taught weekly in all year groups through the Charanga Music Scheme, ensuring full coverage of the National Curriculum and progression in:

- Singing*
- Listening and appraising*
- Composition*
- Improvisation*
- Performing*
- Musical notation*

Children develop understanding of:

- *Pulse*
- *Rhythm*
- *Pitch*
- *Tempo*
- *Dynamics*
- *Timbre*
- *Texture*
- *Structure*
- *Notation*

Singing

Singing is central to musical life at St Mary's.

Children participate in:

- *Weekly hymn practice*
- *Liturgical celebrations*
- *Class worship*
- *School Masses*
- *Christmas and Easter performances*
- *End-of-year productions*

First Access Instrumental Programme

Working in partnership with NMPAT, the school provides year-long whole-class instrumental tuition.

For 2026-27:

- *Year 3 will participate in a full-year Ukulele First Access programme.*
- *Year 5 will participate in a full-year Samba and African Drumming First Access programme.*

This replaces the previous short-term projects and ensures deeper musical knowledge, progression and performance opportunities for pupils. Building on previous NMPAT First Access experiences, every child will continue to have the opportunity to learn an instrument during their time at St Mary's.

Rock Steady Music School

The school works in partnership with Rock Steady Music School.

Weekly Rock Steady sessions provide pupils with opportunities to:

- *Learn guitar, bass, keyboard, drums and vocals.*
- *Perform as members of a band.*
- *Rehearse together weekly.*
- *Develop teamwork and performance skills.*
- *Perform termly concerts for parents and the school community.*

Currently over 30 pupils participate in Rock Steady bands and receive weekly progress updates through the parent portal.

Instrumental Tuition

Pupils can access individual and small-group tuition through NMPAT in:

- *Strings*
- *Brass*
- *Woodwind*
- *Keyboard*

Pupil Premium funding may be used to support access where appropriate.

Musical Enrichment

Children have opportunities to participate in:

- *School orchestra*
 - *Rock Steady bands*
 - *Christmas concerts*
 - *Easter performances*
 - *Liturgical celebrations and Masses*
 - *Young Voices*
 - *Community performances*
 - *Visiting musician workshops*
 - *NMPAT ensemble performances*
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Assessment

Assessment is ongoing through:

- *Observation*

- *Discussion*
- *Performance*
- *Composition activities*
- *Charanga assessment materials*
- *Audio and video evidence*

Teachers upload examples of musical learning to demonstrate progression across the school. This reflects the school's current assessment approach.

Inclusion

Music is for everyone.

Teachers ensure:

- *Appropriate challenge for all pupils.*
 - *Adaptations for pupils with SEND.*
 - *Opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to participate fully.*
 - *Equal access regardless of background, ability, gender, ethnicity or faith.*
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Role of the Subject Leader

The Music Leader will:

- *Monitor standards and progression.*
 - *Support staff development.*
 - *Maintain Music Mark accreditation.*
 - *Organise First Access programmes.*
 - *Develop partnerships with NMPAT and Rock Steady.*
 - *Monitor participation and inclusion.*
 - *Lead curriculum development and improvement planning.*
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Music Development Plan 2026-2029

Vision

To develop St Mary's as a centre of musical excellence where every child sings, performs and learns an instrument, whilst ensuring music remains central to the Catholic life of the school.

Priority 1: Increase Instrumental Participation

Actions

- Introduce year-long First Access provision for Year 3 and Year 5.
- Continue partnership with NMPAT.
- Increase take-up of individual instrumental lessons.
- Promote progression from First Access into individual tuition.

Success Criteria

- 100% of Year 3 and Year 5 pupils learn an instrument for one academic year.
 - Increase individual instrumental tuition uptake by 20%.
 - More pupils progress into orchestra and Rock Steady.
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Priority 2: Develop Performance Opportunities

Actions

- Continue termly Rock Steady concerts.
- Establish a Summer Music Showcase.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to perform at Parish and community events.
- Develop pupil-led musical worship.

Success Criteria

- Every pupil performs publicly at least once annually.
 - Increased parental attendance at performances.
 - Greater pupil confidence in performance.
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Priority 3: Raise Musical Standards

Actions

- *Monitor curriculum progression.*
- *Develop staff confidence in assessment.*
- *Use Charanga and Music Mark resources effectively.*
- *Share best practice across the school.*

Success Criteria

- *Clear progression evident across all year groups.*
 - *Teacher confidence increases through monitoring and CPD.*
 - *High-quality musical outcomes in every class.*
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Priority 4: Inclusion and Equity

Actions

- *Continue Pupil Premium support for music tuition.*
- *Identify talented pupils early.*
- *Ensure SEND pupils can fully participate.*
- *Monitor participation by vulnerable groups.*

Success Criteria

- *Increased participation from disadvantaged pupils.*
 - *No significant participation gaps between groups.*
 - *All pupils access performance opportunities.*
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Priority 5: Strengthen Music within Catholic Life

Actions

- *Continue weekly hymn practice.*
- *Develop pupil leadership in liturgical music.*
- *Increase opportunities for instrumental accompaniment at Mass.*
- *Link music explicitly to Catholic Social Teaching and worship.*

Success Criteria

- *Increased pupil involvement in liturgical music.*
- *High-quality participation in Masses and prayer services.*

- Music recognised as a strength within the Catholic life of the school.

Long-Term Goal: Every child at St Mary's will learn an instrument, perform regularly, and leave school with a lasting appreciation and love of music.