



Music development plan summary:
St. Jude's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss K Dunn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs B M Smith
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	CBSO Class Act Theatrix

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 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.

Here at Saint Jude's our intent is to deliver a broad and balanced Music curriculum that is ambitious, challenging and engaging. Our objective is for all of our children, including those who are disadvantaged and pupils with SEND, to develop a curiosity for the subject, 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 to a variety of instruments during lessons, for example during some 'warm up' exercises the children feel the pulse through body movements.

Moreover, during lessons the children across all year groups have the opportunity to play an instrument. EYFS are exposed such as tambourines, triangles and musical pipes 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 glockenspiels along to a variety of songs.

The curriculum covers a variety of genres, musicians and time periods with each year group assigned an area to cover. Children are asked to recall information from prior lessons to ensure key knowledge and skills are embedded before continuing with their learning. During music lessons, knowledge and skills are taught through a combination of practical and written tasks.

Our curriculum is provided by Charanga (Original Scheme), a leading online teaching and learning platform used to deliver music education. It provides digital resources, lesson plans, and creative tools for pupils, designed for both specialist music teachers and general classroom teachers. Key Features include:

- **YuStudio:** A full-featured digital audio workstation (DAW) for music technology lessons.
- **Yumu:** A dedicated student-facing workspace for independent learning and home assignments.
- **Curriculum Support:** Offers structured schemes of work aligned with the National Curriculum for Music.

Key Aims and Philosophy of Charanga

- **"Unleash the Inner Musician":** Charanga aims to give every child, regardless of ability or location, the opportunity to discover their musical potential.
- **Fun and Engaging Learning:** The core goal is for children to love the journey of learning music, focusing on enjoyment rather than just technical skill.
- **Accessibility for Non-Specialists:** The platform is designed to make it simple for non-specialist teachers to deliver high-quality music curriculum in primary schools.
- **Comprehensive Musical Skills:** It focuses on holistic development, including listening and appraising, singing, playing instruments, improvising, and composing.
- **Social Responsibility:** Charanga aims to create opportunities for disadvantaged young people, promoting inclusivity.

The scheme offers a structured, spiral approach, ensuring learners revisit and build upon musical concepts (like pitch, tempo, and dynamics) to secure deeper understanding over time. It provides teachers with high-quality lesson plans, resources, and CPD to make music teaching rewarding.

Class Act Theatrix, an external provider, also lead sessions for EYFS pupils focussing on oracy with strong musical and performance links. We use the CBSO to provide ensemble performances for our pupils so that they can all experience the pleasure of live performance.

Pupils in Year Four all participate in Clarinet lessons led by Mr Tatham from Birmingham's Services for Education. There is then an option to continue these lessons in Year Five. After school provision for further tutoring in clarinet is available for some Year Six students. All clarinet provision is funded fully by school.

Theatre trips are used to extend learning beyond the classroom. This year, pupils in Year Five attended the reggae musical 'Jah Makin' it Happen'; this was also linked to their History studies of Windrush.

In addition to music lessons, we also deliver whole school hymn practice once a week. Children sing in smaller groups for Prayer and Liturgy, and through this, pupils have lots of opportunity to listen, respond and express personal preferences. Whole school weekly mass in our church also provides further opportunity for singing and performance.

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. Jude's offers a variety of co-curricular music activities including participation in end of year performances and opportunities to work with Bishop Challoner Catholic College. These activities provide students with the chance to further develop their musical talents outside the regular curriculum.

We run a thriving Drama Club after school once a week for pupils in Key Stage 2. Singing and performance is at the heart of this club run by external provider Class Act Theatrix.

After school clarinet tuition is available to students in Year Six and this is fully funded by school.

To enhance the co-curricular music programme, potential next steps could include:

- Expanding the range of instruments offered for peripatetic lessons to cater to diverse student interests

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.

St Jude's provides a rich array of musical experiences for its students, including singing in mass and assembly, singing for the local community at Cherry Lodge Care Home and attending musical theatre performances.

This academic year we have organised frequent performances for parents in school – all classes run a Christmas Sing-a-long for families in the Autumn Term. There are also clarinet and music performances for families termly as well as clarinet performances at other key events such as the Stations of the Cross and the Nativity at St. Jude's Church.

In collaboration with two other primary schools in the city, Year Six pupils have taken part in a three-year project with the CBSO called 'Climate Funk'. This project has involved pupils going to live music performances, nature and science visits, as well as work alongside professional musicians to compose their own piece of music on the theme of environmental damage and care. Pupils are due to perform their composition at Birmingham Symphony Hall in June 2026 as part of a live concert. This has been a wonderful project for our pupils, opening up the world of music through cross-curricular and music-specific tuition.

Potential next steps:

- Arrange for more musicians to come into school to provide workshops for the children across school.

In the future

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

- During lessons this academic year and next, our focus is to ensure that the children are being challenged enough through exposure to vocabulary, that they experience composition and are also exposed to a range of composers from across the world through the musical genre timeline we have in place.

Further information (optional)

Over the course of the next two years, St. Jude's plans to:

- Explore further opportunities to take the children out to experience live concerts
- Bring more professional musicians to deliver workshops and continue our strong alliance with the CBSO.
- Further invest in a range of instruments and replenish what we already have.