

Music development plan summary: St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	7 th November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	7 th November 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jack White
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Joanne Walsh (Head teacher)
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady

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 Augustine's, the music curriculum is comprehensive, engaging, and designed to inspire students' creativity and musical growth. The curriculum is aligned with the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) to ensure high standards of teaching from Key Stages 1 and 2. Lessons are delivered using Charanga, an interactive platform that supports pupils in developing skills in performing, composing, listening, and appraising. This tool is integral in teaching music in an inclusive and engaging manner, accommodating various learning styles and needs.

Music lessons are held weekly, with each session lasting approximately 45-60 minutes, providing students consistent exposure to music education throughout the academic year. Key Stages 1 and 2 have structured music lessons every term, focusing on progressive skills development and exploration of different musical styles and genres.

The curriculum is designed to be inclusive, ensuring that all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), can actively participate. St Augustine's adapts teaching methods and resources to accommodate diverse learning needs, such as differentiated activities and assistive technology through Charanga. The music room is accessible, and additional support is provided to students who may need modified learning materials or one-on-one guidance.

Part B: Co-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.

Students at St Augustine's have ample opportunities to sing and play instruments during lesson time. Whole-class ensemble teaching is offered, where pupils learn instruments such as recorders, glockenspiels, or tuned percussion instruments. Singing is also embedded in weekly lessons, assemblies and during Mass to develop vocal skills and musical confidence. Advanced instrumental tuition is available through the local music hub partnership (HMS), which offers further music education and performance opportunities for Year 4. These children have the opportunity to learn how to play the ukulele. Each child, in Year 4, has the opportunity to learn how to play the ukulele, enriching their musical experiences and fostering instrumental skills.

The school also collaborates with Rocksteady, a program that offers band-like experiences where groups of children can play instruments and sing together, promoting teamwork and performance skills. Additionally, each class has the opportunity to perform their Charanga topic at the end of a term, showcasing their learning and building confidence in front of an audience.

St Augustine's offers numerous performance opportunities. Pupils from Year 4 to Year 6 participate in the Voice in a Million concert, performing in larger events that build their stage presence and excitement for music. As a Catholic school, singing hymns and attending Mass and church services are central to the school's ethos, integrating music into religious practice and community life.

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.

At St Augustine's, we enrich our students' musical journeys with a variety of events and opportunities beyond the standard curriculum. Singing is a key part of daily life, with

students participating in assemblies that include communal singing and hymns. Additionally, our pupils engage in concerts, school shows, and trips to professional music events, broadening their appreciation and exposure to live performances.

Starting next year, we will be subsidising an exciting opportunity through the Hertfordshire Music Service for Year 4 pupils, starting in the spring term. This 11-week program provides ukulele lessons, enhancing students' instrumental skills and fostering an early love for music.

Rocksteady is a weekly program offering children band-like experiences where they learn to play instruments and perform in a group setting. This opportunity is available to those who have opted in and paid to participate. At the end of each term, Rocksteady groups showcase their progress by performing a concert for the school. To ensure inclusivity, we offer one pupil premium student a fully subsidised place to access this enriching experience.

Our weekly choir club is free for all students who wish to join, fostering community and skill development in vocal performance. While there are no participation fees for the club, parents cover the cost of concert travel and tickets when attending external performances. This ensures that all choir members have the chance to sing at various events and concerts, building confidence and performing experience.

In the future

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

At St Augustine's, our music development plan is focused on expanding and refining our curriculum to ensure that it encompasses all aspects of music education for every child. Our goal is to build a robust music program that not only meets curriculum standards but also nurtures a lifelong love of music.

We are committed to continually enhancing our music curriculum to cover a wide range of musical skills, including composition, performance, listening, and appraising. This ensures that all children, regardless of background or ability, have the opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding of music. Our focus includes developing skills in music notation, with dedicated lessons that build progressively to help students read and write music confidently. Additionally, we prioritise hands-on learning experiences that allow children to play a variety of instruments.

An essential aspect of our plan is to provide students with greater opportunities to experience live music. We aim to organise more visits to professional concerts and music events, both in and outside of school, giving students exposure to a range of musical genres and professional performances. These experiences help broaden their understanding of music and inspire them with real-world applications of their learning.

We are dedicated to advancing our work in music notation and instrumental playing. Through our structured programs, such as whole-class ukulele lessons, Rocksteady band workshops and through our music scheme, Charanga, we aim to strengthen students' practical skills and the theoretical knowledge of both child and teacher. These initiatives will help students and teachers build confidence in reading music, playing instruments, and performing in group settings.