

Music development plan summary: The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Liz Atherton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ella Shajpal
Name of local music hub	Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service

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.

Introduction

At The Good Shepherd Primary Academy, we strive to foster a life-long love of music in our children, and to inspire them to develop their talents as musicians. Our aim is to deliver high-quality music teaching whilst supporting and encouraging all children to achieve their full potential. Children participate in a wide range of musical experiences, building their self-confidence and giving them a sense of achievement.

This statement from The Model Music Curriculum sums up The Good Shepherd Primary:-

'The sheer joy of music making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school.' The Model Music Curriculum.

Ofsted Inspection July 2025:

'Pupils benefit from a hugely impressive array of opportunities beyond the school curriculum. They take part in many sporting, musical and creative activities.'
'Staff leave no stone unturned in ensuring that absolutely every pupil expands their horizons and discovers new talents and interests.'

We are a school who loves to sing! We enjoy praising God through singing. The children can often be heard 'raising the roof' with their joyful singing in classrooms, in the playground, at church and in the community. Singing is at the heart of our collective worship, celebrations, and special events. We recognise the many social, emotional and physiological benefits that singing can bring.

Diocesan Inspection quotes

'They respond with inspirational creativity to opportunities to enhance prayer and liturgy through artwork and music, for example, using the Stations of the Cross to support the Sacrament of Reconciliation service.'

'Pupils' experiences of prayer and liturgy elicit an enthusiastic and heart-felt response. This is exemplified in their joyful singing, confidence in involving themselves in leading ministries, a willingness to be actively involved in services, and in their examples of spontaneous prayer.'

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time.

The 'Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service' provides and teaches the GSA music curriculum from Years 1 – 6, which is informed by the ambitious [Model Music curriculum](#). The EYFS music curriculum aligns with this curriculum, providing a strong foundation for future learning and ensuring a smooth and purposeful transition into Year 1, where pupils' musical knowledge, skills and understanding are progressively developed and built upon.

All children receive one hour of weekly timetabled lessons. The curriculum is designed to give each children a broad and balanced musical experience and shows sequential progression in knowledge and skills from EYFS through to Year 6. Lessons cover all the key musical skills of performance, composition, listening and appraising, with a broad range of music from a wide range of cultures and traditions, which reflect our community. In lessons, from Years 1 to 6, pupils learn to play percussion, brass, woodwind and stringed instruments. They also participate in group singing.

[Link to Our Lady of Lourdes music curriculum overview](#)

In the Early Years, music threads through all areas of learning and development and can be grouped within these four categories:-

- Hearing and Listening
- Vocalising and Singing
- Moving and Dancing
- Exploring and Playing

In their music learning, children in years 1 – 6 will encounter the following concepts:-

- Sing with accurate pitch in unison or harmony with attention to phrase and dynamics.
- Play a simple melody on an instrument in an ensemble and to learn it from, for example, staff notation.
- Create short phrases of new melodic music.
- Demonstrate knowledge of music from a range of musical traditions.
- Increasingly enjoy both their music lessons and taking part in the wider musical life of the school.

Music teaching is adapted to meet the range of children's needs in each class. Our curriculum provides challenge to pupils of all musical abilities and all children can access, enjoy, and reach their individual musical potential. Children with SEND receive weekly music lessons tailored to their needs in the 'Ark', delivered by our music teacher.

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.

Outside of lesson time, children have a wide range of music opportunities enabling them to make progress beyond the core curriculum. Currently, children can receive individual or small-group tuition in strings, woodwind, piano, brass, singing and guitar. Lessons are taught by teachers from The Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service. This currently has an uptake of approximately 70 pupils, which we would like to increase this academic year. Children with pupil premium eligibility are offered subsidised one-to-one / small group music tuition. Many of our SEND, EAL and vulnerable children participate in extra-curricular music activities including choir.

We have a range of ensembles and music groups which take place outside of lesson time: The choir rehearses once a week during lunchtime. It is fully inclusive, available to children of all singing abilities in Years 3 to 6. They perform in a range of events which vary each year, including:-

- Year 3 First Holy Communion
- Mass in school and in church
- Special Celebrations, such as Cultural Diversity Day

- Charity fundraising events, such as the Christmas Carol Concert for Maggie's Nottingham
- Local community events including Christmas carols at Valley Court retirement home and 'The Big Sing' at the Good Shepherd Church.
- Events in the wider community, including 'Young Voices'.

The choir sings songs from a wide range of musical genres. Songs are chosen with the children's interests at heart, and with an aim of singing high quality music at the highest standard.

Recorder Club rehearses after school every Thursday and performs at various events including the Recorder Concert and the GSA Music Concert.

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.

We have an extremely busy calendar of musical events and opportunities at GSA throughout the year. Singing is a strength and a passion, being at the heart of school life and our faith. Children attend a weekly hymn practice, in which new songs are regularly learnt and added to the repertoire. Every week in collective worship, children (and staff!) raise the roof with their singing of hymns and worship songs, which bring joy to all, and can be heard ringing around the school building. This is often enhanced by live guitar, piano, or worship band accompaniment. Singing practice is incorporated into every hymn practice, including rhythm work, singing technique, breathing exercises and learning how to sing in parts and rounds. These newly acquired skills and knowledge are then applied and built upon in all songs each week.

As children progress through the school, they have regular opportunities to collaborate with their classmates to create worship song videos for our parish community to celebrate. The Year 6 recording of 'Everything is Possible' was commended by the composer herself, receiving 10,000 'Likes'! The songs are broadcast to parents and can be enjoyed on the school YouTube channel. For celebratory days, such as the King's Coronation, and for the annual Christmas carol concert, every class learns a new song to perform at a high standard to parents and their peers.

Children regularly sing, play and listen to songs from a range of styles and genres not only in their curriculum music lessons, but in events such as Cultural Diversity Day. They perform well-known songs from their cultures, enjoy workshops such as African drumming and learn different styles of singing such as 'call-and-response' songs.

There are further opportunities for children to both participate in, and watch, musical performances each year, including the school music concert, 'GSA's Got Talent', the annual Year 5 and 6 Musicals, and Class assemblies.

Through introducing 'Composer of the Month', we are expanding our children's musical horizons by listening actively to a wide range of music. This includes Western Classical Music, Popular Music (defined broadly) and Traditional Music from around the world. The pieces come from a wide range of traditions and cultures and include music which reflects our school community.

Professional musicians, each specialist in their instrument, visit classrooms and assemblies to perform, demonstrate techniques, and share their musical journeys. These live performances not only enrich pupils' musical understanding but also inspire and motivate children to explore learning an instrument themselves, broadening participation and fostering a lifelong love of music.

In the future

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

For the academic year 2025–26, we aim to further increase performance opportunities by hosting an additional whole-school music concert, building on the success of last year's event. This will provide more pupils with the opportunity to showcase their developing skills on individual instruments, while also enabling ensembles such as the choir and whole classes to perform to a supportive and appreciative audience.

Expanding these opportunities will strengthen pupils' confidence, stage presence, and sense of achievement. In addition, we plan to broaden participation in collective worship by increasing opportunities for pupils to accompany hymns using instruments such as guitar and piano, further developing their ensemble skills, musical independence and understanding of accompaniment.

Continuing to build on the school's strong singing culture, we aspire to become a lead school for singing, consistently striving for the highest standards in vocal performance. To support this ambition, we will actively seek and accept community performance opportunities, allowing pupils to share their talents beyond the school setting and experience performing in a range of venues. Mrs Woodward will jointly lead choir rehearsals this year with Mrs Atherton, and will compose and arrange bespoke repertoire specifically for the GSA choir.

This year we will be strengthening our assessment of curriculum music to ensure it is robust, consistent, and meaningful. Assessment information will be used to inform planning and to celebrate musical achievement.

'Composer of the Month' will be fully embedded across the school this year, further strengthening pupils' aural awareness and musical vocabulary. By engaging in focused listening to a range of works by a single composer, pupils will deepen their

understanding of musical style, structure, and historical context, while developing critical listening skills that underpin both performance and composition.

Further information

<https://www.ololmusic.co.uk/>