

Music development plan summary: The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Liz Atherton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Celine Toner
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.

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, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

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](#). An additional music specialist delivers the curriculum within the Early Years. 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 is challenging to pupils of all musical abilities and all children can access, enjoy, and reach their individual musical potential.

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, 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 peripatetic 1 - 1 lessons and 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 4, 5 and 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

- Local community events including Christmas carols at Valley Court retirement home and 'The Big Sing' at the Good Shepherd Church.
- Community events in the wider community: Last year, the choir took part in 'Young Voices' for the first time, and this was such a success that we will certainly be signing up again!

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 quality music at the highest standard.

Our worship band rehearses weekly with one of our peripatetic teachers as well as during lunchtimes of their own accord, with the frequency and timing of rehearsals dependent on upcoming services and Masses. All ensembles are free of charge.

Our music teacher also delivers music sessions as part of our wrap around offer to ensure the love of music extends beyond the school day.

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.

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 greatly enhanced by the 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.

We are very lucky that our music specialist has access to professional recording equipment and studio. Annually, he supports the children in recording three worship song videos (Advent, Lent and at the end of the school year) 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 'GSA's Got Talent', the annual Year 5 and 6 Musicals, and Class assemblies.

Through introducing 'Composer of the Week', we have begun to expand 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.

Our music teacher and his band performed to the children during an assembly in the Advent term and, moving forwards, this will now be a termly feature in our musical calendar.

In the future

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

For the academic year 2024-25, we would like to further increase performance opportunities with a school music concert in the Lent term. This will give children a chance to showcase their skills on their individual instruments, whilst enabling groups such as the choir and classes to perform in front of a friendly audience. We have also started an extra-curricular instrumental ensemble for Key Stage 2, who rehearse every Thursday after school.

We would like to give our children more opportunities to listen to a wider range of live music, for example, professional orchestras.

Continuing to build on the school's strength in singing, we would like to be a lead school for singing, continually aiming for the highest standards in performance.

'Composer of the week' will be embedded this year, giving the children an even stronger aural foundation.

Finally, we will be introducing and embedding our brand-new school song, 'Wake up, Shake up!' written by our very own 'in-house' composer, Mrs Woodward, along with members of the School Council.

Further information

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