

Music development plan summary: St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ian Bowd
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Saint Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy, our vision is to enable all children and young people to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, and have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents.

For some children, music will be a lifelong passion and career. For others it will provide opportunities for them to express their creativity, and for some it will simply provide joy throughout their lives.

We believe our children should be provided with opportunities to experience music throughout their school journey. From listening to music, singing and dance in the Early Years, to enjoying musical performances and learning to play different instruments in Key Stage 2.

We deliver our music curriculum through a teaching scheme called 'Kapow' and in partnership with the Derbyshire Music Hub. Kapow is a comprehensive scheme, informed by the Model Music Curriculum 2021. Kapow provides children with opportunities for performing, listening and composing, and teaches them about the history of music and inter-related dimensions of music, such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure and timbre.

Each child will be provided with a minimum of one hour teaching of music per week. Music will be taught in various ways, including class teaching, peer performances, school performances, singing assemblies and cross-curricular learning experiences.

In the Early Years Foundation, children will have the opportunity to sing and learn new songs. They will explore how sound is made and use their bodies to make different sounds. Children will be introduced to untuned instruments, such as the triangle, tambourine and maracas. Children will practice listening to different instruments and distinguishing between the different sounds.

In Key Stage 1, the children will be learning to listen with concentration and understanding, to a range of high-quality live and recorded music. They will begin to appreciate music from a wide variety of cultures and historical periods. Children will be introduced to a wider range of untuned instruments and learn about tempo, pitch and the dynamics of music.

In Key Stage 2, children will begin to evaluate the music they listen to and explain their preference for a piece of music using musical vocabulary. Children will begin to articulate the impact a piece of music has on them and start to articulate the reasons for this effect. Children will also begin to understand and use musical notations, compose a coherent piece of music with bodies, voices and instruments, and offer constructive feedback on others performances.

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.

St Charles' offers a wide range of instrumental tuition including piano, flute, violin and cello. Instrumental teachers produce concerts for their pupils to play to parents and the rest of the school. Children are signposted to Derbyshire music hub – which provides opportunities for developing their performing skills. Instrumental lessons are subsidised for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

There is a regular KS2 choir that prepares each year for the Young Voices concert, with weekly rehearsals.

Children take part in community events, such as singing at care homes and performing at school fairs.

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.

The year 3 children learn the violin and go on an educational visit to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to play alongside the Halle orchestra and perform with 900 other children on their instruments. This is a project that involves a half term's preparation and gives children an insight into what an orchestra sounds like.

Several Year 4, 5 and 6 children attend the Young Voices concert every year where they get to sing alongside thousands of other children accompanied by a live band and professional singers.

Children have the chance to perform on stage each year as they progress from a simple nativity in nursery and reception, then a more challenging one in KS1. They perform a musical based on the Easter story in years 3 and 4 and then another large scale musical in years 5 and 6. All children take part in these shows and those who are gifted and talented in music get the opportunity to stretch themselves by singing solo parts and in small ensembles. Children gain skills and confidence from these events where they share their talents with the wider school community.

In the future

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

St Charles' Catholic Voluntary Academy is committed to continually improving and developing its music provision. With this in mind, use of ICT has been added to the year 6 curriculum, giving the children the chance to create compositions using a sequencing programme. This is continuing to be developed and adapted to stretch all children. Adaptations and improvements that reflect the increasing understanding of how to support children with SEND are also being developed through professional development of music teaching staff.