



St Mary's Catholic First School



Music Development Plan 2025-26

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025

Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	R. Stoves
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	S. Oakes
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North

Our Vision for Music

At St Mary’s, music makes an important contribution to the life of our school and is celebrated, promoted and encouraged. It helps build our pupils’ self-esteem and self-discipline and leads to higher standards across the curriculum.

Music is a universal language that embodies the highest forms of creativity. The high-quality music education at St Mary’s engages and inspires pupils to develop a love for music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity, and sense of achievement.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. The children of Corpus Christi are able to enjoy music in as many ways as they choose – either as listener, creator or performer.

Our music scheme follows a proven approach called a ‘spiral curriculum’. Pupils revisit topics, progress in difficulty, and build on prior learning each year. This helps them gain a deeper understanding and greater proficiency in Music learning. All pupils access the same music curriculum with support to enable all pupils to have equity across the music curriculum, this includes playing instruments. Staff review previous learning to aid retention for learners and use a variety of assessment strategies within lessons to ascertain when all pupils understand of what is being taught in lessons, before moving on to acquire new knowledge.

[MUSIC-Intent-Statement-and-Overview-FINAL.pdf \(hexhamstmarys.uk\)](#).

1. In the classroom		
	What we do now	What we need to do to improve
Timetable high quality weekly music lessons	Class teachers deliver weekly music lessons following the <i>Kapow!</i> curriculum	Work with the EYFS lead to review and develop the EYFS curriculum to be

<p>for KS1 and KS2 (at least 1 hour per week)</p>	<p>as a base in years 1 to 4. The curriculum meets the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum.</p> <p>Lessons are between 40 mins and 1 hour each week. The curriculum is planned in sequences to allow children to review, remember, apply and deepen their understanding of the knowledge and skills. Teachers can plan lessons to be inclusive of all learners.</p> <p>In Early Years, music is delivered through holistic practice as an integral part of the EYFS curriculum. Music is planned across the four musical areas: Hearing and Listening, Moving and Dancing, Vocalising and Singing, Exploring and Playing.</p>	<p>informed by the <i>Kapow!</i> EYFS scheme, to further support progression to KS1.</p> <p>Implement condensed curriculum to ensure that curriculum is being taught to a high standard.</p>
<p>Provide access to lessons across a range of instruments and voice</p>	<p>Throughout the curriculum children learn to explore, play and create with a wide range of tuned and un-tuned percussion. In EYFS, children use a range of un-tuned percussion instruments; they learn to play hand bells, reading numeric notation to play ensemble pieces. In KS1 children explore tuned and un-tuned percussion within their units of work. This continues in KS2, with pupils writing and reading notation to play a range of percussive instruments.</p> <p>Children in all year groups have regular opportunities to sing in music lessons and to develop their skills in solo and ensemble singing including singing in rounds and two-part harmony.</p>	<p>Review progression in instrument tuition within the curriculum and outline a clear pathway for the range of instruments children are exposed to from KS1 to KS2.</p> <p>Ensure all teachers are aware of the strategies to teach singing and use vocal warmups.</p> <p>Work in partnership with Music Partnership North to develop the units of instruments tuition to ensure all curriculum objectives are comprehensively covered.</p>

2. Beyond the Classroom

	<p>What we do now</p>	<p>What we need to do to improve</p>
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Provide access to tuition across a range of instruments and voices	Singing and vocal work is well established in school with regular singing in school assemblies, liturgical celebrations and Masses.	Work with MPN to provide extra-curricular tuition. Develop whole school singing with more regular singing sessions to rehearse and improve ensemble singing. Work to increase the range of genres/styles that children can sing.
Singing / Choir club	We host a singing club every other half term for children to attend. They sing a range of songs.	Weekly each term, plan out what songs to learn to perform.
Termly school performances	Christmas musical theatre performances (EYFS, KS1 and KS2) in which all pupils participate.	Continue to develop these performances
Musical clubs	Currently have singing club each week.	Choir, performances.
Whole school singing	Host whole school singing assembly each week, singing a range of hymns and children friendly music.	Possibly map out what hymns to learn at specific times in the year to relate to themes.

3. Leadership and Management

	What we do now	What we need to improve
Music lead is in place	We have a Music Lead in place who oversees the planning of the music curriculum and all extra-curricular music activities. The Music Lead liaises with MPN to organise music tuition.	Music lead to carry out pupil voice and learning walks to get overview of current provision to inform development.
Staff have access to CPD where needed to enable curriculum to be delivered effectively and by those with subject knowledge	Staff have received support in school from the Music Lead and follow the KAPOW curriculum which has CPD documents for lessons/units to assist teachers.	Explore the range of free CPD provided by MPN or KAPOW to provide additional training to non-specialist staff.

4. Community and Partnership

	What we do now	What we need to do to improve
Provide opportunities for children to enjoy live music performance at least once per year	Currently the children take part and experience live music when participating in a Hexham Abbey performance. We do not currently have the opportunity to experience an external live music performance.	Explore opportunities to engage with musical ensembles in the local area
Participate in Community Music Events	Year 3 and 4 pupils take part in a workshop each year where they are then invited to the Abbey to sing with other schools.	Increase opportunities for pupils to participate in local music events (Music Lead to liaise with GMS to explore opportunities).

Key Priority areas for development for 2025-26		
Area of development	Action	Date for completion
Staff CPD	Music Lead to liaise with GMS to access relevant CPD opportunities for teaching staff.	Summer 2026
Develop a school choir	Introduce singing club each half term, explore a range of genres.	Ongoing
Increase number of pupils participating in music tuition	Work with MPN to deliver extra-curricular clubs and activities to increase the profile of music.	Ongoing
Use pupil Voice and learning walks to inform development	Music Lead to carry these out during Autumn term to inform planning/CPD for the academic year.	Autumn 2025
Develop a calendar of music events for children to attend	Music Lead to explore opportunities for children to experience live music at local venues.	Summer 2026