

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



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Fiona Sexton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Catherine Young
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
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.

All pupils currently receive music lessons and teachers use Kapow as a resource to support the delivery of our high-quality music education. We also deliver music lessons across the school by a music specialist, Durham Music Service, who is contracted by school via a service-level agreement. Year 3 receive whole class music sessions in the Autumn and Spring terms and Reception receive tuition in the Summer term. In addition, children in KS2 also have the option to receive some 1-1 or small group tuition following the Ukulele lessons.

Music is timetabled on a weekly basis. School has procured whole-class recorders, ukuleles and other instruments to support our access to musical provision. Pupils with SEND receive their full music curriculum entitlement. The schools' curriculum is displayed on the schools' website and is based on the Model Music Curriculum

(Children receive one hour tuition a week, Year 3 receive an instrumental programme lasting 2 terms and there are opportunities for development beyond the term).

Please see the Music overview for a brief summary of the opportunities pupils have to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups. In addition, it also provides information on the partnerships the school has to support curriculum music and how we support pupils with special educational needs (SEND).

Our Music curriculum overview can be found at: <https://stbenetsouston.bwcet.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Music-Curriculum-Plan-24-25-FINAL.pdf>

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.

At St Benet's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. We offer children opportunities to sing and play music in small groups, fostering a lifelong love for the subject.

Individual / Small Group Tuition

To cater to pupils who wish to pursue music more intensively, we offer small group tuition for clarinet in school. These sessions ensure that pupils receive the attention and guidance they need to progress at their own pace and achieve their musical goals. For children who are eligible for FSM, these tuition costs are subsidised by the school so children are provided with equal opportunity to learn to play an instrument fluently.

Instrumental Learning Opportunities.

We believe in the importance of instrumental learning as part of a well-rounded music education. In Year 3, we provide whole class teaching of the ukelele and begin to offer pupils small group tuition in woodwind instruments, focusing currently on the clarinet. In addition, we offer children in KS2 the opportunity to learn the recorder in after school provision. For some of our children (Year 6), this will be consolidation techniques as this cohort learned to play the recorder as opposed to the Ukulele when they were in Year 3.

Choir

Our Choir, which is open to children from Year 5 – Year 6 is a vibrant part of our music programme throughout the academic year. The choir provides an opportunity for children to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony, and perform in front of a live audiences. The choir perform an annual concert in the summer term. Our choir has performed for the local care homes in the area, as well as for parents and carers of our school and has also taken part in wider singing events, including the Big Sing at Ushaw College and The Glasshouse in Gateshead. . We continue to explore more opportunities to perform both within school events and at local events.

Whole School Hymn Practice.

One of the cornerstones of our music provision is our whole school singing hymn practice and communal Celebrations of the Word. These opportunities are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience and a time for developing spiritually through music. Singing together builds a sense of community and shared joy in making music.

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.

Pupils' social and cultural capital is developed through our aim to ensure that all pupils are exposed to high-quality musical experiences.

Pupils sing in termly class Celebrations of the Word to an audience which includes their parents and carers.

Pupils also sing in a collection of concerts within school during Nativity time. From Nursery to Year 6, every child will perform to their peers and to the school community within their own individual Key Stage Nativity performance or Carol Concert.

Members of our school choir will take part in The Big Sing event at Ushaw College during the Autumn term. This is where pupils have access to a wide repertoire of music and perform these alongside other children from County Durham. At the end of the academic year, our school choir comes together to perform a concert to parents and carers, along with members of our local and school communities.

Pupils' communal singing is excellent, and the school comes together during Celebration of the Word, weekly, where we continue to develop pupils' repertoire. It is

our aim to have a performance which culminates and exudes musical excellence, across the schools.

In addition, children in Year 6 perform an end of year performance based on a Shakesperean play. The performance includes a wealth of songs that the children perform either individually as a solo or in a shared element.

Each year, children are provided with opportunities to visit professional concerts. Children in Years 1-6 visit the Theatre Royal each Christmas time for a treat to watch the annual pantomime, paid for by our Friends of St Benet's group. Children also attend the theatre to watch West End shows or theatrical productions based on literary texts. Year 6 attend this performance in London at a West End Show during their London Residential.

In addition, music is played across the school. This may be in the main entrance to promote a calm, relaxing atmosphere through the corridors or during lessons when children are concentrating on their written work such as extended writing tasks in English lessons.

In the future

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

We want to ensure that lesson delivery is inspirational. At the start of each lesson, we aim to ensure that there is a listening activity for pupils to complete so that they begin to develop a deep appreciation for music and that there is a wider opportunity for whole-class instrumental tuition.

We aspire to gradually introduce new instruments from a wide range of instrumental families. Learning new instruments will broaden pupils' musical experiences and skills, fostering a greater appreciation for music. From September, this shall start with the after school recorder club.