



St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Music Development Plan 2026-2027

School Context

Our school is committed to providing a broad, inclusive and progressive music education that enables all pupils to develop musical knowledge, skills, creativity and appreciation. Music plays a central role in our school culture, enriching collective worship, school productions, community engagement and pupils' personal development.

Vision

Our vision is for every child to:

- Experience the joy of music-making.
 - Develop confidence as performers, listeners and composers.
 - Access high-quality musical experiences regardless of background.
 - Appreciate a wide range of musical traditions and cultures.
 - Develop cultural capital through exposure to significant musicians, composers and musical genres.
 - Participate in meaningful performances within school and the wider community.
 - Develop a lifelong appreciation of music.
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Curriculum Provision

Music is taught through a progressive curriculum that develops pupils' knowledge, vocabulary, listening skills, performance skills, composition and musical appreciation.

Curriculum Features

- Progressive music curriculum from EYFS to Year 6.
- Specialist music teacher in KS2 for two short terms annually.
- Music knowledge organisers used in every class.
- Music journals maintained by pupils across the school.
- Study of musical history and key composers.

- Listening and appraisal activities covering a broad range of musical traditions.
 - Exploration of music within different cultures and historical periods.
 - Opportunities for composition, improvisation and performance.
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Instrumental Teaching

Whole-Class Instrumental Tuition

Year 4

- Whole-class ukulele tuition.
- Development of chord patterns, rhythm, ensemble skills and performance.
- Opportunity to perform at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

Year 5

- Whole-class recorder tuition.
- Development of notation reading, ensemble playing and technical proficiency.
- Opportunity to perform at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

EYFS Music Provision

Children access music through:

- Singing activities.
 - Movement and dance.
 - Music stations within the outdoor learning environment.
 - Musical experiences within Forest School provision.
 - Exploration of rhythm, pulse and sound through play-based learning.
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Extra-Curricular Music Opportunities

Peripatetic Lessons

Pupils can access specialist tuition in:

- Electric Guitar
- Acoustic Guitar
- Bass Guitar
- Drums
- Keyboard

- Singing/Vocal Tuition
- Cello

School Music Groups

Rock Steady Band Programme

- Weekly rehearsals.
- Three performance concerts annually for pupils and parents.

Music Club

- Supports music for assemblies.
- Accompanies school Masses and liturgical celebrations.
- Opportunities for leadership and responsible participation.

Future Development

- Re-establish school choir to create a joint parish choir with our sister school St. Thomas More to perform at our local church St. Simon Stock.
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Singing Strategy

Singing forms the foundation of our music curriculum.

All pupils regularly:

- Sing in assemblies and masses.
- Participate in classroom singing activities and hymn practice.
- Learn repertoire from a variety of musical styles, cultures and traditions.

Performance Opportunities in school and to parents/carers

EYFS and KS1

- Nativity performances featuring:
 - Ensemble singing

KS2

- Annual Carol Concert featuring:
 - Solo performances
 - Duets

- Ensemble singing

Year 3 and Year 4

- Passion Play performances featuring:
 - Solo performances
 - Duets
 - Ensemble singing
 - Group dancing

Year 6

- Leavers' Production incorporating:
 - Singing and dance

Performance Opportunities

Whole School We are proud to provide all pupils with opportunities to perform publicly.

- School productions accompanied by live instruments where appropriate.
- Community celebrations.
- Parish events.
- Liturgical music events.
- Concerts for parents and the wider community.

Year 2

- Community singing performance for pensioners and local residents at Lordswood Library.

Year 3

- Carol singing performance at Rochester Cathedral.

Year 4

- Ukulele performances in school and community events.

Year 5

- Participation in Medway Music Festival at the Central Theatre, Chatham.

- Recorder performance opportunities in a small group.

Year 6

- Participation in Young Voices at The O2 Arena.
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Inclusion and Equality

Our music provision is accessible to all pupils.

We ensure that:

- Music is available to every child regardless of need or background.
 - Adaptations are made for pupils with SEND.
 - Performance opportunities are inclusive.
 - Financial barriers are minimised wherever possible.
 - Pupils can access both curriculum and enrichment opportunities.
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Cultural Capital

Music contributes significantly to pupils' cultural understanding.

Children engage with:

- Significant composers from different historical periods.
- Influential contemporary musicians.
- Music from different cultures and traditions.
- Live and recorded performances.
- National music events and festivals.

Black History Month Development

During Black History Month pupils will:

- Explore the development and influence of Black music traditions.
 - Listen daily to influential Black artists as part of morning entrance music.
 - Learn about the cultural significance of genres including Gospel, Jazz, Blues, Soul and contemporary popular music.
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Facilities and Resources

The school has invested in:

- A dedicated music room.
- Whole-class instrumental resources.
- Music journals and knowledge organisers.
- Outdoor music stations within EYFS and Forest School provision.

These facilities support high-quality musical learning and creativity.

Professional Development

Staff continue to develop expertise through:

- Attendance at Kent Music CPD and conference events.
 - Specialist teacher support.
 - Curriculum development meetings.
 - Sharing of good practice across schools.
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Partnerships

The school works with:

- Kent Music
- Medway Music Association / Dynamics
- Young Voices at the O2
- Rochester Cathedral
- Central Theatre, Chatham
- Local parish community
- Lordswood Library
- School parish partnerships (St. Simon Stock Church)
- Peripatetic music providers
- Rock Steady Music School

These partnerships enrich pupils' musical experiences and raise aspirations.

Priorities for Development 2026-2027

Priority 1: Expand Singing Provision and Increase Community Engagement

- Re-establish a new school choir for this year.
- Develop joint parish choir with St. Thomas More.
- Increase performance opportunities across the parish community.

Priority 2: Strengthen Cultural Capital

- Embed Black History Month music programme and carousel activity afternoon.
- Further diversify listening curriculum.
- Increase exposure to musicians from a range of cultures and traditions.

Priority 3: Develop Instrumental Pathways

- Increase uptake of peripatetic lessons.
- Provide Rock Steady sessions for Pupil Premium and SEND including funded places and additional taster sessions.
- Increase Musical opportunities via clubs for pupils with SEND and Pupil Premium.

Priority 4: Enhance Staff Expertise

- Continue attendance at Kent Music CPD.
- Develop teacher confidence in delivering musical teaching across the curriculum.

Success Criteria

By July 2027 we aim to:

- Maintain 100% pupil participation in curriculum music.
- Increase participation in choir provision.
- Increase numbers accessing instrumental tuition.
- Provide each year group with at least one performance opportunity.
- Further develop pupils' knowledge of diverse musical genres and traditions.

- Strengthen links with the parish and wider Medway community through music.

This Music Development Plan demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that every child experiences a rich, ambitious and inclusive musical education which supports achievement, wellbeing, faith, creativity and cultural understanding.

Catholic Ethos and Music

Music is central to our Catholic identity and enriches the faith life of our school community. Through singing, instrumental performance, liturgy and worship, pupils develop their relationship with God while experiencing the joy of collective musical expression.

Our music provision actively supports prayer, worship and spiritual growth by enabling pupils to participate fully in the liturgical life of the school and parish.

Music in Worship and Liturgy

Pupils regularly engage with music as part of:

- Prayer and worship.
- Whole-school assemblies.
- Class liturgies.
- Mass celebrations throughout the Liturgical Year.
- Feast day celebrations.
- Parish events.
- Religious performances and productions.

Children learn a wide repertoire of:

- Traditional Catholic hymns.
- Contemporary worship songs.
- Spiritual music from diverse cultures.
- Liturgical responses and acclamations.
- Seasonal music linked to Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

Liturgical Movement and Sign Language

To ensure inclusivity and deepen engagement with worship, pupils regularly:

- Perform liturgical movement and dance as an expression of prayer.
- Use Makaton and British Sign Language to accompany hymns and spiritual songs.
- Respond physically and creatively to sacred music.

- Develop understanding of how music can communicate faith, worship and reflection.

These approaches support participation for all learners and encourage pupils to express their faith through music, movement and gesture.

Faith Through Performance

Music provides opportunities for pupils to witness and celebrate their faith publicly.

Examples include:

EYFS and KS1

- Nativity productions incorporating singing, movement and worship.

Year 3

- Carol performances at Rochester Cathedral.

Year 3 and Year 4

- Passion Play performances involving solos, duets, ensemble singing and dramatic interpretation of scripture.

KS2

- Annual Carol Concert celebrating the message of Christmas.

Whole School

- Music accompanying Masses, liturgies and assemblies.
- Hymn singing throughout the school year.
- Music Club supporting worship and religious celebrations.

Community and Parish Links

Music strengthens relationships between school, parish and wider community by enabling pupils to share their talents while living out Gospel values.

Impact

Through our Catholic music provision, pupils:

- Develop confidence in leading and participating in worship.

- Deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith.
- Experience a sense of belonging within the school and parish communities.
- Recognise music as a powerful form of prayer and celebration.
- Appreciate the spiritual, cultural and emotional significance of music.

Our aim is that every child leaves our school understanding that music is not only a means of artistic expression but also a gift from God that can inspire worship, reflection, service and community.