

Music development plan summary: St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	09.10.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	09/ 26
Name of the school music lead	Emma Wilson-Thickens
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Walsall Music Education 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.

Music at St Bernadette's follows the Music Express Scheme. This was chosen as it caters for all ages and levels of expertise for both staff and pupils. Music express is extremely fun and includes warm ups, main lessons and cool downs. In addition we have a wealth of songs we can choose from for extra singing. Children are encouraged to use a variety of tuned and untuned instruments, which we have in our resource trolley at school. The scheme encompasses all areas of the music curriculum including listening and appraising, composing and performing.

We also have added links so our children listen to specific classical pieces throughout the year groups.

Every lesson begins with a warm up, which involves singing and movement. The main lesson element is divided up into units which are varied and interesting such as 'China', 'French songs' and 'Machines'. Within the main lesson children learn about

instruments, rhythms, musical terms and how to perform as an ensemble or individually. Some lessons are more practical than others. Lessons are an hour in length for year 1 to 6. Lessons are 40 minutes for Reception.

All year groups from Reception follow the music scheme. Every child in school participates in a music lesson every week. The subject lead teaches music in every class except Reception to ensure they are all having the best experience they can using the expertise.

If a child has SEN, the music curriculum is all still accessible. We take time learning in small chunks and we constantly repeat to ensure children pick up every element before moving on. Children are encouraged to perform to the class either individually or in small groups. Again, all children have this opportunity.

In school we have an alternative provision room for children that need some time out of class. In here music is celebrated and encouraged to really help the children. A basket of instruments is kept here and paper on clipboards for composing. There are pictures too for inspiration, if needed.

We encourage children to share their music making and keep records of exciting work and evidence in musical scrapbooks so we can showcase these to visitors in school.

For any children that demonstrate a talent or real interest in music, we speak with parents about how they could get involved with the music hub in Walsall which will be able to develop them further.

We also use the children's skills in our concerts and performances where they get chance to perform.

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. Bernadette's Catholic Primary school we offer additional music tuition to what is taught in the classroom. Peripatetic teachers teach both brass instruments and strings to pupils on a weekly basis. Children in years 4 and above can participate in these lessons. The teachers encourage the children to work towards exams and to become proficient in their instrument.

In school, but outside of lessons we also offer a range of music ensembles. There is a school choir who rehearse after school one night a week, ukulele ensemble as an after school club. We are also planning a guitar club and recorder club this year.

After school clubs currently are free for our pupils. Any child, in the appropriate year group, can participate up to the number specified by the member of staff leading the group.

Pupils can make progress in music outside of lesson time in a variety of ways. We offer the loan of instruments in brass and strings. Children can then borrow the instruments to practise with and work towards exams and grades. We offer the instruments to the children. Those interested will be auditioned by the peripatetic teacher. Those that are successful then have a letter home and parents have to commit to the year and that their child will rehearse at home. These lessons are currently free of charge.

Walsall music centre also offers a range of groups that musicians can join as they reach a certain level. This will enhance their music making and encourage music making on a larger scale.

Music lessons take part in our spare rooms in school. If children need to rehearse, these rooms can be used as long as an adult is present. If children come and talk to us to ask about rehearsing during 'out of class' times, they can rehearse in our school hub which is a safe, quiet place but one that is monitored and overlooked by staff so all children are safe at all times.

Part C: Musical Events

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.

Music is a large part of the St. Bernadette day. We all sing in Mass, Gospel assemblies and hymn practice weekly. Children learn a wide variety of hymns and other material, including some by famous composers, which we make links to as we discuss the pieces.

Teaching also incorporates singing on a daily basis. Teachers in the Early years sing the days of the week song. Teachers in ks1 and 2, sing and participate in with songs linked to the curriculum. For example the continents song in geography and the French songs linked to the scheme.

Teachers at St. Bernadette's use music as background to studying too. Many have quiet music playing for extended writing or as background for history lessons to demonstrate the sounds heard in WW2 for example. Teachers are encouraged to tell the children what pieces of music are called so they can begin to recognise them at a later date.

There is a musical concert every Summer term where the peripatetic teachers and the children that learn instruments showcase what they have been learning for the rest of the school and the community. The peripatetic musicians talk to the children about

instruments, how to play them and show them how they sound after lots of rehearsing. This live experience is invaluable.

Some of our children met with other schools in our Academy to compose a school hymn with two musicians, Dan and Emily. They had such a fun day and now we sing our school hymn in assembly. This was a great experience to use their skills.

At Christmas we have a large production which involves every pupil in the school. This always includes music with both singing and the use of percussion. At times it also includes individuals that learn piano at home.

Just before Christmas we have a St. Bernadette's got talent show for fun. Children from any year group can showcase their amazing music making skills for the school to enjoy. No one has to audition. It is for fun!

Walsall Music Education Hub has a wealth of concerts and experiences you can visit and watch. Many of these cost but are very reasonable prices in order to see a live music event. Contact: 01922 655579 or email steph.dufty@walsall.gov.uk

In the future

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

We have lots of plans for the future for music at St. Bernadette's. We would like to include more real life musical experiences for our children. We are looking into taking the children to Symphony Hall to see one of the children's concerts which are interactive and lots of fun. These take place periodically through the year.

Within our musical curriculum this year we are going to be including much more composition work. We felt the children were not experiencing the different types of composition so this will form a good chunk of our musical teaching. Starting in the Autumn term, children will learn what graphic scores are progressing through the year groups, and then in Spring they will experience early music writing.

We would like to introduce an after school music club in the Spring Term for guitars as we have a keen member of staff to run this. Children will learn basic guitar skills and learn to play a few easy pieces that could then be showcased in our prom.

During the Summer Term, we will be teaching whole class music (recorder) to the year 5 children. This is free of charge and will be undertaken in class music lesson time with the subject lead taking the lessons. This will give all children in that year group the opportunity to learn an instrument to a basic level. This will then be repeated the

following year to ensure more children have that opportunity. This will then be extended for a longer period of teaching.

In school in the Summer Term this year, the musical groups in school and children that learn instruments with the peripatetic teachers will all put on a Strawberry Prom. This will be open for all to come and watch and include a strawberries and cream interval. The teachers which lead the groups will ensure children are invited and your parents come to see the performance. Tickets would be available for parents (at a small cost)

As music lead, I am looking to find music groups that will come into school for assembly times to perform to the children so they learn about the variety of instruments and how much fun learning music is. This will be ongoing through the whole year.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how you can get involved in music in and out of school, and where you can go to for support beyond the school. Please take a look if you are interested.