

Music development plan summary: St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ailish Stanley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	DioSing Outreach Programme

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.

Each class receives one session per week (1 hour) of discrete music teaching. This is either taught by the class teacher as part of the music curriculum (utilising the Leicestershire Music Hub's Primary Scheme of Work resources which are fully informed by and match the ambition of the Model Music Curriculum) or by vocal specialists. Children coming into St. Patrick's have limited access to instruments, live music and a wide variety of music genres, so teachers ensure that experiences and resources fill these gaps. Vocabulary is also given a central focus due to the low literacy entry points of the children to the school. Pupils in Year 6 also have access to instrument tuition (recorder) taught by a music specialist within our school.

Our Year 5 Pupils have weekly music lessons via the [DioSing Outreach Programme](#) at no extra cost to parents. As part of this programme, vocal specialists teach classroom singing for an hour a week in primary schools across the city and county, delivering

lessons designed around the National Curriculum for Music. Children learn a range of skills including reading rhythms and notation, aural skills, and a sound vocal technique, and also have the opportunity to compose their own music, play desk bells and glockenspiels, and learn about the orchestra.

Pupils in Year 5 are then given termly opportunities to showcase what they have learnt to the rest of the school with additional public performances around the Catholic calendar of events e.g. Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter. A professional recording of their singing is also included in Leicester Cathedral's Musical Advent Calendar.

All musical activities and opportunities at St. Patrick's are open to children of all abilities. Adaptations to the curriculum or event structure take place as and when this is required. All music lessons take account of all differences in ability and progress is made by every child.

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.

As a whole school we have bi-weekly singing/hymn practice. We liaise with our local parishes and support them by performing on significant occasions such as Feast Days. We also work alongside other schools within the St. Thomas Aquinas CMAT to raise funds for a local charity for disabled young people (Menphys). In addition to this, the choir perform at in-house events, Masses/liturgies and as outreach in our local community. In partnership with DioSing several pupils in Years 5 and 6, who wished to develop their singing, successfully auditioned to become Cathedral Choristers. They performed for Prince Edward during his visit to the Cathedral in 2025 and are enjoying their journey which is described by the Cathedral as being 'life-changing, creating life-long passions for music, shaping academic paths, and even professional careers'.

Last year we began to offer extra curricula band-based music lessons through Rocksteady Music School and have two bands who perform rock concerts termly to the school and parents. Children across the school benefit from these live musical performances and ad hoc additional experiences are always sought.

This year we are offering music making opportunities in the form of a Singing Club and a Boomwhacker Club that will be available after school.

We ensure that children who have achieved any musical qualification outside of school are acknowledged in our weekly celebration assembly.

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.

Children will have the following opportunities to perform and experience high quality music this academic year:

- The KS2 choir taking part in the Menphys Catholic Schools Carol Concert at De Montfort Hall for which tickets are sold to the public
- All classes perform in Masses/liturgies they have prepared throughout the year and to which parents and parishioners are invited
- Nativities performed by Early Years (FS1 and FS2) and KS1, families invited
- Years 3 and 4 perform a Christmas Carol Concert, families invited
- The school choir are invited to sing and sign at the St. Patrick's Day Mass at St. Patrick's Church, local community and parishioners are invited
- End of year production by Year 6 to which families are invited
- Local music group perform live and sing to the whole school
- The whole school will enjoy a pantomime or other professional production, performed by an outside performance company
- Musical performances at a local care home
- Termly performances to the rest of the school
- Annual Talent Show

In the future

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

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Introduce a wider range of instruments for whole class ensemble
- Source more musical instruments to allow our curriculum to be taught smoothly
- Further collaboration with the music hub to enable our KS2 choir to perform in Leicestershire Music's Massed Choir at De Montfort Hall
- Further development of extra-curricular music for disadvantaged pupils
- Apply for a grant to fund the whole school attendance of a live music performance
- Further showcase of live performance outside of school to develop cultural capital and encourage future engagement with music

Further information

Our local music hub that we work in partnership with is [Leicestershire Music](#).

The Department for Education has published a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school. They also published a [national vision for music education](#).