

# Music development plan summary: St James Catholic Primary School

## Overview

| Detail                                                                             | Information                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                             | 2025-2026                    |
| Date this summary was published                                                    | Nov 2025                     |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                                 | Nov 2026                     |
| Name of the school music lead                                                      | S Jones                      |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | M Ingram                     |
| Name of local music hub                                                            | Birmingham Music Service     |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)            | Primary Knowledge Curriculum |

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

At St James Catholic Primary School, we teach music weekly across the school from Reception to Year 6. In addition to music lessons, we also deliver whole school hymn practice at least once a week and in smaller groups for collective worship. Each unit of Music follows the same structure, children focus and listen to music, explore then investigate and practise, leading them to compose, perform and lastly evaluate their own pieces of music. Within this structure each lesson begins with a warm up singing different songs, action songs and rounds. Children are then asked to recall information from prior lessons to ensure key knowledge and skills are embedded before continuing with their learning. Children listen, respond and explore music which covers a variety of genres, musicians and time periods during music lessons. Knowledge and skills are taught through a combination of practical and written tasks, supporting children to create and compose their own music in lessons. Whole class instrument tuition is taught by a trained musician in year 4, children elect to continue with these lessons in year 5 and 6. Our curriculum has been designed with the Model Music Curriculum at the forefront using the Primary Knowledge Curriculum and working closely with our

local music hub, The Birmingham Music Service, in order to deliver an ambitious, robust and knowledge rich music curriculum.

## Part B: Extra-curricular music

St James Catholic Primary School offers a variety of co-curricular music activities including subsidised peripatetic brass instrument lessons, school choir, termly school productions, musical recitals, Year 6 end of year production, Year R nativity, whole school nativity, Year 5 Easter Passion and Rock Steady band lessons and performances. These activities provide students with opportunities to further develop their musical talents outside the regular curriculum.

To enhance the co-curricular music programme, potential next steps could include:

- Continuing to develop and support children to elect to continue peripatetic lessons
- Continue to develop community music events or collaborations to showcase students' musical achievements
- Introducing music workshops or masterclasses with professional musicians to inspire and mentor students in their musical journey

## Part C: Musical experiences

St James Catholic Primary School provides a rich array of musical experiences for its students, including singing in mass and assembly, Christmas and Easter concerts, participation in the annual academy showcase, visits from local musicians, performing at our regular school music recitals and performing in the community for different groups. Some experiences are provided free of charge to enable all children to take part a variety of musical experiences. Additional music lessons and CPD are taught by a music specialist from the local academy secondary school.

### Potential next steps:

- To continue to develop frequent community performances or collaborations with other schools.
- Explore virtual musical experiences or digital initiatives to engage students in music beyond the school setting.
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in music competitions or festivals to showcase their talents and receive feedback.

## In the future

Looking ahead, St James Catholic Primary School aims to further enhance the musical enrichment programme and opportunities for students. These future plans will create a platform for students to collaborate, perform, and develop their musical skills in a group setting. To successfully implement these future initiatives, potential next steps could include:

- Developing the genre, style and traditions of music sung and performed by the choir.
- Developing the leadership roles of children throughout music and performance.
- Offering children opportunities to enjoy live performances both in school and by attending theatres.
- To develop the use of music technology.