

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

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Summary for 2024 / 2025 Plans outlined for 2025 / 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Emma Culshaw-Jones
Name of local music hub	Our Lady of Lourdes Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	https://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/music/

Part A: Curriculum music

Music at St Patrick's Catholic Academy is taught in all classes from Foundation stage to Year 6. We aim to develop pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in music through a wide range of teaching styles. These include actions and dance, whole class work, small group work and individual work. Staff work together to ensure music progression is evident throughout the school and pupils build on what they have been taught in previous years.

Our music curriculum allows:

- Pupils to develop their performance skills through learning to play tuned and untuned instruments, singing a variety of songs and rehearsing and performing with others.
- Pupils to develop their composing skills through creating musical patterns and exploring and organising sounds and learning to record these in a variety of ways.
- Pupils to build an extensive range and understanding of musical vocabulary.
- Pupils to learn to analyse and compare sounds, explore ideas and make improvements to their work, building on their appraising skills.
- Pupils to learn to listen with increased concentration to internalise and recall sounds.

As a school, we believe music should be creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging, allowing our community to come together through the shared endeavour of whole-school singing, ensemble playing, experimenting with the creative process and through the love of listening to friends and fellow pupils performing. Therefore, we employ a specialist music teacher provided by the [Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service](#), ensuring our pupils receive a high-class music education. Lessons delivered by our

music specialist are rich and varied, in line with both the national curriculum and OLOL music curriculum. Children with SEND are individually supported in class depending on their various requirements, for example: use of ear defenders when music lessons are louder than average, teacher's ability to differentiate their lessons, use of planning to challenge all pupils depending on their ability, allowing pupils to hear music ahead of lesson time and pre-teaching vocabulary.

Our school's music curriculum takes into consideration recommendations made by the Model Music Curriculum (MMC, March 2021), ensuring pupils are taught 1 hour per week or equivalent, have termly opportunities to follow whole-class instrumental programmes and access to rhythmic (such as drums, guitars, ukeles and pianos) and melodic instruments (such as dodos, toots, percussions and shakers).

Please find our school's music curriculum and progression documents for each year group at the following link: [St Patrick's Curriculum Intent - St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy](#)

Part B: Co-curricular music

Since the start of the 2022-2023 academic year, we have offered pupils the opportunity to access private music tuition in the instrument of their choice outside of what is taught in lesson time. Sessions are offered as one-to-one, small-group or large-group tuition for instruments or voice. These music sessions are delivered by peripatetic music teachers provided by the OLOL Music Service, completing 12 lessons per term or 6 lessons pending teacher availability. Instrument hire is also available for pupils. Booking and paying for this tuition/instrument hire is completed through their website at the following link: <https://pay.ololmusic.co.uk/collections/st-patrick-s-catholic-primary-school-a-voluntary-academy>

Parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility) are considered for or support in purchasing resources such as music books. Enquiries surrounding this can be made at the following link: <https://www.ololmusic.co.uk/contact-us/>

Since September 2024, we have offered pupils the opportunity to enrol in iRock School of Music. The sessions are delivered by a qualified musician and at a cost to parents. This opportunity emphasises teamwork, collaboration, and listening, while enhancing confidence, social skills, and positive mental health. Through teamwork and fostering an environment where children can take creative risks, they grow more resilient and confident in performing and speaking, all while developing a passion for music. The iRock programme has been designed to be totally inclusive for every child, regardless of their experience, ability, or learning style.

Additionally, since the 2021-2022 academic year our school has proudly taken part in the [Nottingham Schools' Singing Project](#). This has allowed children in Years 3 and 4 to partake in half hourly choir sessions each week throughout the academic year. Sessions have a performance-based focus and work towards concerts throughout the year, such as our Easter concert in the Lent term and Summer concert in the Pentecost term. Pupils are also all invited to attend and participate in the annual Carol Service at the Nottingham Cathedral. Through this, pupils have the opportunity to develop their vocal technique, part singing abilities, musical terms and their applications as well as enjoy a variety of songs. From this, our choir master Greg Treloar offers pupils throughout the year the opportunity to join the free Girls' and Boys' cathedral choirs, which provide music at some of the Cathedral services.

For wider ensembles that pupils can join, we signpost parents and carers to the [Nottingham Music Hub website](#). A variety of music opportunities are offered, from the Robin Hood Youth Orchestra to the Young Voices. Information about ensemble fee subsidies can be located [here](#).

Part C: Musical experiences

Each week at St Patrick's, pupils attend one half an hour hymn practice in their Key Stages and as whole school. Pupils are taught traditional and modern hymns as well as modern songs and sing collectively during these times. Our pupils and staff alike show great enthusiasm towards our Key Stage and whole school hymn practices, all members of our community participate fully and passionately.

Additionally, at St Patrick's we host a number of Masses throughout the academic year, celebrating our faith with the incorporation of musical elements. Pupils both attend and participate in these acts of worship. We often ask for feedback on our assemblies, collective worships and/or Masses from parents, caregivers, governors, wider staff community, the parish community and pupils, from which we receive overwhelming positive comments on our musical endeavours.

From February 2025 until July 2025, the children from Years 1-6 were offered the opportunity to attend Choir Club as an extracurricular enrichment activity. This was well-attended with 30 children attending each week during lunchtime. The children thoroughly enjoyed showcasing their performances at the end of the Pentecost term with parent voice expressing that, 'it was the best performance they had ever seen!'

In the final weeks of each half term, our children perform instruments or sing what they have learned throughout the 5/6 weeks prior. Pupils deliver these performances to another year group or during an assembly. This allows them to experience performing for smaller audiences, gaining confidence and a sense of pride before performing to whole school audiences and/or parents and family members. (Classes alternate

performing each half term e.g. Year 3 perform to Year 4 in Advent 1 and then Year 4 perform to Year 3 in Advent 2).

To celebrate the Advent season each year, Years 3 and 4 perform in the annual Carol Service at the Nottingham Cathedral or local Church. Parents, caregivers and the wider school community are all invited to attend and share a special, festive evening.

Moreover, all pupils in KS1 to KS2 perform in our termly concerts, our Christmas Concert, Easter Concert and Summer Concert. St Patrick's Foundation Stage, host and perform our school's annual Nativity Play. All of which are open to parents, caregivers, family members, governors, staff and past pupils to attend.

During the Advent 2 half term of this year, Years 1 and 2 will be offered the opportunity to attend a [Lake Side Arts](#) Christmas theatre show. This is not only an enriching theatre experience for our pupils but is a cross-curricular link to other curriculum topics studied to develop and enhance writing later in the year. Class teachers are also signposted to the Lake Side Arts Primary school drama workshop offers, to enhance their year group's curriculum learning. Educational visits such as these are subsidised to support families during the cost-of-living crisis.

In the future

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

During this academic year (2025 - 2026), St Patrick's aims to continue to offer a timetabled one-hour music session each week for all key stages.

Furthermore, in response to staff voice we seek to introduce and embed whole class feedback across music lessons delivered by our peripatetic provider. This will provide pupils with tailored formative assessment for learning and will allow our class teachers and music provider to liaise, gaining a stronger understanding of real time pupil assessment rather than a summative report.

We are looking to set up and deliver an after-school music club, offered to Years 1-6 and aim to continue to offer the ever-popular Choir Club. Opportunities such as these will allow pupils to develop a love of music through games, art, and activities. They can listen to different styles of music, paint or draw about how it makes them feel and learn about rhythm.

Finally, as a school we seek to boost musical enrichment and live performance opportunities at least once a year for each year group. This year Years 1 and 2 have the opportunity to attend a [Lake Side Arts Christmas performance](#), Year 5 will have the chance to participate in a [Brazilian Samba drumming or dance workshop](#) as last year linking to their "Nottingham and Rio de Janeiro" topic and Year 6 will participate in a range of musical opportunities involving solo and group singing and performance during their religious retreat.

