Music development plan summary:
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01/09/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	27/11//2026
Name of the school music lead	Ella Hutchinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jonathon Deeney
Name of local music hub	West of England Music and Arts (WEMA)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Gordano School

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.

St Joseph's Catholic School has always recognised and emphasised the importance of music for pupils' well-being and development. The school is proud of its musical community and tradition based around the church in which members across different age groups and nationalities unite and share the love of music. While reflecting the unique diverse school community, the school welcomes volunteering parents or grandparents to assist pupils in learning and singing in foreign languages.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School provides a 40 minutes weekly timetable slot dedicated to music in accordance with the National Curriculum. The children are monitored and assessed termly by the music teacher and class teacher. This is monitored by video evidence and Charanga. In music lessons, pupils are encouraged to participate in activities such as singing, playing instruments (e.g. recorder, ukulele, keyboard, violin, xylophone, marimba and boomwhackers, as well as rhythmic

instruments such as djembe, maracas, rhythm sticks, etc.), performance, music appraisal, composition, music theory, music history, music technology, conducting and Music and Movement. There are many opportunities for pupils to perform in front of an audience, for instance, in Christmas productions, the Year 6 Production, Prayer Services, the PTFA talent show, weekly worship and praise assembly, etc. The school has a Music Room which is used for individual and small group music tuition with specialist teachers from West of England Music and Arts (WEMA).[1]

In addition to allocated weekly music lessons in class, the school is unique in offering more opportunities for pupils to share music with the community during collective worship on Mondays, Wednesdays (dedicated to singing with the Principal or Vice Principal) and Fridays, as well as during mass and weekly Prayer Service in class where pupils choose their favourite hymns.

While working in alliance with the West of England Music and Arts (WEMA) and Gordano School, pupils are able to access wider and valuable experience through events which involve other local schools, e.g. live ensemble performance by GCSE and A-Level music students from Gordano School, Go Gordano (Years 5&6), Raise the Roof (Years 3&4), Hear My Voice (Years 1&2), etc. The school also assists pupils and their families in accessing Music Therapy and well-being sessions as well as musical instruments and tuition through identifying funding options in challenging circumstances.

The EYFS and KS1

Younger pupils enjoy taking part in music activities such as Music and Movement, appraising music with 'free-style' dancing, singing and playing games. In EYFS, pupils are encouraged to expand their nursery rhyme repertoire and sing them from memory. Some songs offer fantastic opportunities for games that can be played in pairs (Round and Round the Garden, Pat-a-Cake, etc.) or as a class (Here We Go Round, Hokey Cokey, etc.). KS1 pupils participate in Hear My Voice with an ambitious programme that includes singing in harmony, in rounds and in foreign languages. The event is organised by WEMA and allows many local schools to meet and sing together alongside a live band.

Pupils listen to a wide range of music across different periods and from around the world and express how they feel about the music; they understand that, like food, it is acceptable to have likes and dislikes. While appraising music, younger pupils are often requested to dance 'in free-style' to the music. The activity has proved to be beneficial in terms of developing music awareness as well as well-being while enabling pupils to open up and share the excitement with their peers. Those who are otherwise reserved and find it difficult to relax around their peers often start moving without feeling too self-conscious.

[1] Fees are required according to WEMA. Funding may be available for some pupils. For details, see 'Music Tuition'.

Music and Movement also assists in helping pupils to develop an awareness of pulse, music structure and how to play a part in class ensemble.

Music terms (language) and music on five staves are used at all times. Pupils are encouraged to follow music instructions for singing and playing instruments. The school has a variety of musical instruments for pupils to explore. Year 2 pupils take up recorder and learn to play at least two pieces. The instruments are also used for creating music; pupils enjoy playing ‘follow the leader’ (following a melody or rhythm pattern created and suggested by a volunteering leader). Music technology is used for composing music collectively in class.

Some pupils may start taking instrumental or singing lessons either inside or outside school. It is also notable that pupils in EYFS and KS1 perform in the Christmas Production and the class Prayer Service, and that they enjoy singing in PSHE lessons (Ten Ten: Life to the Full).

KS2

The school provides a programme in accordance with the National Curriculum which enables KS2 pupils to expand and increase their musical knowledge and awareness (e.g. music language, music theory, the history of music, etc.), as well as developing their skills in singing, performing, conducting, playing different musical instruments, using music technology and writing music. In music lessons, KS2 pupils continue their progress with playing musical instruments, for instance, Year 3&4 pupils develop their recorder, xylophone or keyboard skills, and Year 4, 5&6 pupils learn to play ukulele. KS2 singers and instrumentalists are invited to perform solo or as a group in front of an audience in class or in assembly which helps to inspire younger pupils to follow their example.

KS2 pupils have the opportunity to go outside school and join other local schools for singing and sharing music together, which is hugely beneficial in their preparation for transition to secondary school. Years 3&4 participate in Raise the Roof, organised and operated by WEMA, and Years 5&6 are invited to Go Gordano, an event which allows pupils to spend time singing and making music with their peers from other local schools and seeing live performances from GCSE and A-Level students from Gordano School.

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.

Extra-curricular Music

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School offers special music activities in school. Music clubs have been set up and are operated weekly by pupils during their lunch break, including violin club and karaoke club. There is also a plan to bring back a school choir for KS2 pupils, conducted by an external professional after school, as well as a brass band managed by Lions Brass 4 Youth after school. For pupils who are interested in taking up an instrument or singing, individual or group taster sessions can be arranged on request.

Rock steady

We now also offer the Rock Steady programme to all children across the school. Children have the opportunity to choose their preferred instrument or activity from guitar, keyboard, singing and drums. Working together in small, mixed-age groups, they develop their musical skills, build confidence and collaborate as a team to create their very own band.

Music Tuition

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School offers individual or small group instrumental and vocal tuition through partnership with West of England Music and Arts (WEMA); lessons are delivered weekly in school during the school day by qualified specialist music teachers.

Strings (violin, cello, viola, electric guitar, classic guitar, ukulele, etc.),

Brass (trumpet, cornet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, etc.),

Woodwind (recorder, saxophone, clarinet, flute, oboe, etc.),

Percussion (drum kit, tuned percussion, etc.),

Piano

Voice

WEMA is also responsible for monitoring pupils' progress, assisting pupils in preparation for ABRSM or Trinity music exams including ABRSM music theory, and assisting the continuation of Year 6 pupils' instrumental and voice training as they transfer to secondary school.

Individual music tuition fees are £155.50 termly (10 lessons) for individual lessons (20 minutes) and £72 termly (10 lessons) for small group lessons. Recipients of free school meals can receive support with music tuition fees. The school also has a range of musical instruments available which pupils can use for their lessons and practice at home. WEMA offers advice on hiring or purchasing musical instruments.

Pupils are encouraged to broaden their experience through joining local youth ensembles and music clubs outside school. WEMA offers a wide range of ensemble activities in the evenings or on Saturdays such as string and full orchestra, wind concert band, swing band, jazz band, school of pop and rock, etc. The Rock Project (voice, guitar, drums, etc.) is operated through Portishead Youth Club. Portishead Players has a junior group (Portishead Young Players) which meets at Somerset Hall and performs four times a year. Stagecoach Performing Arts School Portishead is operated weekly within Gordano School grounds and offers holiday training sessions; the school principal Fae McIntyre comes to our school and teaches dance. Bristol Beacons offer a wide range of music training and activities for children and young adults, including individual instrumental and voice tuition, regular workshops for music technology, musicianship, vocal and instrumental ensembles such as choir, orchestra and bands in association with The Bristol Cathedral Choir School. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has produced some outstanding musicians, including some who have been awarded places in the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain.

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.

Musical Events

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is proud of its strong tradition of musicianship, while providing opportunities for making music throughout the daily school routine. Pupils are engaged in praying and singing together every morning: whole school worship on Mondays and Thursdays, class Prayer Service on Tuesdays, whole school singing worship on Wednesdays and praise assembly on Fridays. Pupils come out of morning worship and singing assembly radiant and joyful, some exclaiming, "I love singing!" "I loved that song!" KS1 pupils also enjoy singing during PSHE lessons.

Pupils regularly attend mass in St Joseph's Church with their families and are invited to take part in reading, singing and playing instruments alongside adult members of the parish. School mass takes place termly, and Leavers' Mass is traditionally celebrated in school, outside in the playing field when the weather is good. Pupils also enjoy class Prayer Service to which parents, grandparents and carers are invited to join them in celebrating their class patron saints.

Music also plays a significant part in preparation for and during Christmas. EYFS and KS1 engage in the Christmas Production and Years 3&4 in the Christmas Prayer Service, in which they perform in front of an audience. The Year 5&6 Christmas Prayer Service takes place in St Joseph's Church with the parish community and is traditionally opened in candle light. Parents, grandparents and carers usually find the performance 'moving' and 'unforgettable'.

The PTFA organises an annual Talent Show and the Summer Fete in which pupils can show off their talents and skills on stage to an audience.

Some pupils attend local performing arts centres and schools and have the opportunity to perform regularly outside school, namely, West of England Music and Arts (WEMA), Stagecoach Performing Arts School, The Rock Project, Portishead Players, Bristol Beacon, etc. Some of the aspiring musicians and performers have progressed to work alongside professionals in the Bristol Hippodrome, Bristol Beacon and Weston-Super-Mare Playhouse.

Part D: In the Future

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

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School has plans to enhance pupils' learning and experience in music while understanding its significant positive effects on their well-being.

KS2 pupils will be invited to take up a brass instrument and participate in a brass band after school, free of charge, which will be organised and managed by Lions Brass 4 Youth. The school is aiming to bring back the KS2 choir which will be conducted by a qualified teacher from West of England Music and Arts (WEMA), also free of charge.

The school will continue to provide instrumental tuition during weekly music lessons: the school has enough instruments for all pupils to play together in class, including a xylophone, boomwhackers, recorders, ukuleles, and various percussion instruments.

The school will reach out individually to pupils for whom a special music activity can have a positive impact, and will offer them aid or advice as appropriate. Pupils can request a taster session if they are interested in music therapy or taking up an instrument. Equally, the school will assist individuals who are ambitious and advanced in music to access 'the next possible step' in alliance with WEMA.

The popular Karaoke Club will be brought back and operated weekly during lunchtime for a term, free of charge.

Pupils will have more opportunities to see live music performances by their peers, the local secondary students or by professional musicians. If possible, pupils will travel to a local event where they can see a band or orchestra perform.

Pupils will continue to take part in those events and schemes organised by WEMA and Gordano School that allow them to spend time making and sharing music with other local schools, e.g. Go Gordano, Raise the Roof, etc.

Further information (optional)

The Links

West of England Music and Arts (WEMA)

Beacon Music Centre | Bristol Beacon

Portishead Youth & Community Centre

The Rock Project - Bristol & North Somerset

Performing Arts School in Portishead | Stagecoach

HOME | portishead-players

Catholic Church | St Francis, Nailsea and St Joseph, Portishead