

Music development plan summary: 2025/2026

St Charles Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn 2026
Name of the school music lead	Eimear Crealey/Yvonne Sebuyira
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Fred Fowle
Name of local music hub	Triborough Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sing Education

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.

At St Charles, we are dedicated to providing an enriching and comprehensive music education that instils a lifelong passion for music in our students. Our music curriculum is carefully crafted to foster creativity, nurture talent, and develop a deep understanding of music across various cultures and genres. Aligned with the Musical Development Matters and the Model Music Curriculum, our curriculum is designed to provide a sequential and coherent music education. It aims to ensure that every student, regardless of background or prior experience, has access to a rich and varied musical education. Our intent is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and cultural awareness necessary to appreciate and engage with music in a meaningful way. We aspire to cultivate well-rounded musicians who can sing, play, compose, and perform with proficiency and enthusiasm.

To realise our music curriculum's intent, we have partnered with *Sing Education*, a leading specialist provider of music education, where children have at least one hour per week of music provision. Our curriculum is thoughtfully structured with half-termly units each building upon the foundation of prior learning while introducing new concepts and challenges. This scaffolded approach ensures a logical progression of skills and knowledge, enabling students to consolidate, expand, and refine their musical abilities. By placing equal value on all aspects of music, we strive to support children to develop musically across the three pillars of progression referred to in Ofsted's Music Research Review (2021); technical, constructive and expressive, which are evidenced in our curriculum below.

The main pillars of musical learning in each Key Stage are as follows:

EYFS

Moving and Clapping

Recalling Patterns, Actions and Rhythms

Pitch matching

Rhymes, Songs and Stories

Playing and Responding

Singing, Listening and Playing Together

Whole Class Instrument Playing (Glockenspiels, Tuned & Untuned Percussion)

KS1

Pulse

Rhythm

Pitch

Composing

Musicianship: Preparing for Ensemble Skills

Musicianship: Preparing for Reading Notation

Whole Class Instrument Learning/Playing (Glockenspiels, Tuned & Untuned Percussion)

KS2

Performing: Reading Notation- Rhythm

Performing: Reading Notation- Pitch

Performing: Instrumental Performance

Composing and Improvising

Creating and Performing

Musicianship: Singing and Listening

Whole Class Instrument Learning/Playing (Glockenspiels, Ukulele, Recorder, Tuned & Untuned Percussion)

The Kodaly method, a music education model, is integral to our curriculum at all ages and ensures that musical concepts are presented systematically and aligned with students' prior experiences. As a visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning approach, everyone benefits from its use in our school.

Regular performances in the music classroom and recordings at the end of each half term provide students with opportunities to showcase their musical growth and articulate their learning journey

Our music curriculum is fully adaptable, whilst still ambitious and undiluted, for those children with SEND. Adaptations include regular use of Makaton and Solfa when learning songs, increased freedom for instrumental exploration around the classroom, repetition in lessons to ensure development of prior knowledge, and use of lots of props (scarves, foam shapes, puppets, floor spots, rainbow rope etc.). Each lesson PowerPoint includes a picture timetable at the bottom, which alleviates a lot of anxiety in SEND children.

In terms of qualifications and awards within the music classroom, we have a 'Star Musician' system in place. Four children showing excellent musicianship qualities in each lesson are chosen to sit on a star musician chair and have their own personal instrument. This creates an environment where everybody strives to be the best musician they can be.

In summary, through our comprehensive music curriculum, we aim to nurture confident, skilled, and culturally aware musicians who are well-prepared for a lifelong journey of musical exploration and expression. Our curriculum aligns with the Model Music Curriculum's principles, ensuring that students receive a high-quality, balanced, and inclusive music education.

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.

At St Charles we are committed to providing an enriching and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our co-curricular music offer is designed to provide our pupils with numerous opportunities to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for music and enabling them to make significant progress in their musical journey.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

Both KS1 and KS2 receive a 30 minute weekly singing assembly with our specialist music teacher. These assemblies are critical in our music making at St Charles's as they bring whole key stages together to experience the transformative power of singing in a large group. Children are taught the foundations of good singing technique through fun games and warmups, before learning songs that we add to our bank of hymns for school events/masses/assemblies. Our whole school singing assemblies promote confidence in the children, as well as a sense of collective joy from singing alongside their friends.

Whole School Assemblies

At every class assembly, the children of that class who learn an instrument play for their parents and the school while the school gathers in the Hall. This provides a wonderful performance opportunity for our children and allows them to experience playing before a large audience, alongside their peers. Each class also performs 3-4 songs in their individual class assemblies, which are practised within their own classrooms with their class teacher. Singing as a class in front of their peers very visibly instils a sense of pride, and boosts the confidence of the class on the stage that week.

Come and Sing Choir

This is an opportunity for those children who do not wish to audition for the main choir, to come and sing in a relaxed, informal environment with their friends. We work on boosting confidence with singing, using well known pop songs that they know and love.

Before School Choir

Our school choir meets weekly before school on Tuesday mornings, where children experience collective singing in a smaller group. In this smaller group setting, the children really sharpen their musical skills of rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation and diction. The choir sings an expansive range of repertoire by many composers and many different styles including John Rutter, Pop Medleys, Handel and original works composed by TBMH composers! Within our school choir, we aim to nurture confident, skilled, and culturally aware singers who are well-prepared for a lifelong journey of musical exploration and expression.

Before School Orchestra

Our school orchestra meets weekly before school on Friday mornings and is a joyful and inspiring platform which allows the children to grow and progress their musical skills and talents. Our strings peripatetic tutor arranges music specifically that will develop the children's sight reading skills alongside exploring the musical elements of rhythm, tempo, dynamics, melody, harmony and texture. The children play a wide range of repertoire - from Zadok the Priest to the James Bond theme music, Vivaldi to calypso! Importantly, the collective experience of playing together also builds and fosters a sense of belonging and a shared joy in music making. Children are given the opportunity of 'leading' their instrument section within the orchestra on a termly basis.

Instrumental Learning Opportunities

Instrumental learning is integral to the music we offer at St Charles. During their time with us, as part of whole class ensemble lessons, children will learn to play untuned percussion, the recorder, ukulele and glockenspiels. Learning to play an instrument develops many musical and valuable additional skills which all add to the children's rich and varied musical journey.

Individual and Small Group Tuition

Children who wish to pursue learning to play a particular instrument have the opportunity to do so at St Charles. We offer individual, paired and small group lessons in voice, violin, 'cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, recorder and piano. All lessons are subsidised and offered to Years 1 – 6. These lessons are delivered by highly experienced and specialist music teachers who work with our children developing their musical abilities and providing a structured and progressive pathway which may include preparing for and taking ABRSM exams. We provide performance opportunities regularly, including school concerts, playing before assemblies and performing in the community.

Notting Hill Community Choir

Our children have the opportunity to join this large, vibrant community choir which meets once a week after school in a local church. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to sing as part of a larger musical community with others from adjoining schools.

Triborough Music Hub

We work very closely with the Tri-Borough Music Hub, attending networking events and making sure opportunities sent through via email are fully explored in school and shared with our families through the school newsletters. This includes providing and updating information regarding the TBMH opportunities of after school/weekend and holiday music provision. We also connect families with outside agencies to further support children's musical ambitions through our strong links with the TBMH partners. We take part in many musical events organised by the TBMH, and use their music services to provide our children with wind and brass tutors and instruments where necessary. We access the numerous documents available on their website for support and are proud to rate our music provision at St Charles as platinum (self-assessment tool).

Music Scholarships

Every year we put forward a small number of children for various music scholarships (London Music Fund, John Lyons Charity, Royal College of Music Sparks programme) and are delighted that we are often successful in acquiring funded places for these children. Our children also gain entry to secondary schools on music scholarships. In 2025 we secured four year fully funded music scholarships for four of our pupils.

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.

In School:

All children perform regularly throughout the school year in class, at assemblies and concerts, during Mass and at International evening. This gives every child a wide and varied performance platform which is inclusive of all needs and abilities within our school. Every Christmas, all children have a part to play in their class/key stage Christmas production which is performed before the school and their parents. The children also enjoy the experience of live theatre when a touring pantomime company comes to St Charles and performs for the whole school. At Easter, Year 5 performs the Passion of Christ to the whole school community - a very moving spoken and sung presentation of the story of Easter.

Outside School:

Local Community

- Various classes sing and play for residents of our local Alan Morkill Home, as well as our neighbours in the Carmolite Monastery. This facilitates intergenerational singing and conversation which builds and fosters relationships with our wider school community. We also visit our local hospice at Christmas time, where the children sing carols with and to the patients. This year we hope to renew our partnership with the service users at Chamberlain House.

Royal College of Music

- We take full advantage of the free termly Sparks lunchtime concerts at the RCM which are inspiring and joyous examples of music making by musicians not too much older than the children themselves!
- When possible, we also host RCM students at St Charles who come with their instruments and perform for the children as well as leading them in a creative workshop. Both the concerts and the workshops provide our children with such valuable enrichment experiences

Royal Albert Hall

- Through our engagement with the TBMH our children have taken part in massed choral performances at the Royal Albert Hall. We are looking forward to being part of 'A Musical Rebellion' which will showcase in June 2027. These are wonderfully rich music making opportunities that involve weeks of preparation and repertoire that stretches and challenges. To be a performer at the Royal Albert Hall, alongside 4,000 other young people and a professional orchestra is definitely a once a lifetime opportunity and one that the children treasure.

- Our KS2 children visit the RAH to participate in music and maths workshops supporting their understanding of the many connections between music and maths.

Opera Holland Park

- Our Year 5 and 6 children have the opportunity to attend a schools matinee by OHP during the Summer term. A fun and engaging workshop beforehand helps the children to access the opera and understand the storyline and the context of the piece. We are so lucky to have this fantastic opportunity to experience opera in such an accessible way and hope to attend this Summer 2026

Triborough Music Hub

- Our choir attends the Triborough Music Hub Christmas Festival in Kensington Town Hall, which gives children the opportunity to sing exciting and original Christmas compositions in different languages, with other schools in the area. The children get a real insight into how professional choirs rehearse and perform as they are led by Stuart Whatmore and Evie Asio who really challenge and enthuse the children. The children perform for a very prestigious audience, including all of the Heads of School in the area, as well as the Mayors of K&C, H&F and Westminster!
- Our instrumentalists attend the 'Play Days' during the Spring term where they have the opportunity to join with many other instrumentalists from other schools to play as part of a large ensemble - wind and brass on one day and strings on another day. These occasions give our children experience of playing as part of a much larger group and help to develop and extend their musicianship skills whilst enjoying meeting other musicians
- This year we hope to take part in the Infant Voices Festival in June with our Year 2 children. This is a wonderful enrichment opportunity for our infant children to experience singing as part of a much bigger choir alongside their peers at Kensington Town Hall

Sing Education Cluster Performances

- We collaborate regularly with Sing Education, when we attend their 'Cluster Performances', along with other schools in our borough. The children from the different schools learn the same material, and come together for a short rehearsal before presenting it to friends and family. This is such a joyous experience for the children, as they get to sing the same material with numerous other children which fosters new friendships and learning from other choirs. Each school also gets the opportunity to showcase their talents and perform two solo songs in the programme.

In the future

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

- To explore a musical intervention programme ('Drumbeatable' - Inspire Works) designed particularly to support neurodivergent children with the possible outcomes for the children of improved ability to regulate emotions, improved focus and attention during learning time and improved social and emotional resilience.
 - We will continue to explore the possibility of creating a combined orchestra with our federation school, St Mary's Catholic Primary. This would help to grow our orchestra, share expertise, whilst encouraging and developing musicianship skills across the two schools.
 - Collaborative choir and orchestra performances with St Mary's Primary
 - Professional Development for teaching singing: CPD sessions will be provided by the specialist music teacher, to ensure that class teachers feel confident when teaching their class assembly and production songs
 - Programme choir and orchestra concerts twice a year
 - We will invite feeder secondary school choirs and bands to St Charles to perform for our children, to further our children's musical aspirations for the future and to be inspired!
 - Continue to explore live music opportunities for our younger children at Wigmore Hall
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Further information (optional)

If you would like any additional information, The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how to get involved in music in and out of school, and where to go to for support beyond the school

Please explore the Triborough Music Hub's website and their local plan for music education. <https://www.triboroughmusichub.org/>