

Music development plan summary: St Michael's Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024--2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Perry
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Trafford Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Michael's CE Primary School, we are committed to delivering high-quality music education that inspires a love for music and nurtures our pupils' talents as musicians. Through shared musical experiences such as whole-school singing, ensemble playing, and performances, we aim to foster a strong sense of achievement and community. We provide opportunities for pupils to learn musical instruments and participate in both school and local ensembles.

Our music curriculum is guided by the Model Music Curriculum (2021), which outlines a comprehensive framework for music education, focusing on four key elements: singing, listening, composing, and performing/instrumental performance. At St Michael's, we fully integrate these elements to ensure all pupils receive a rich and engaging musical experience.

Key Stage 1 pupils receive at least one hour of music teaching per week, delivered by Trafford Music Service professionals using the Charanga scheme, which includes lesson plans and opportunities for both melodic and rhythmic instruction. Pupils also participate in productions at Christmas, incorporating both singing and instrumental performances.

In Key Stage 2, pupils also receive one hour of weekly music instruction, with Year 4 and 5 students participating in 'Wider Opportunities' lessons, where they learn brass instruments. Music is embedded throughout the curriculum, and performances are a key feature, with pupils performing at Harvest Festivals, Christmas events, and other school celebrations.

Music education in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is tailored to support children's development through structured and exploratory music activities, including singing, instrument exploration, and listening exercises that foster phonics, language, and listening skills. Reception classes use the Charanga framework, and the school is currently enhancing its EYFS music curriculum, including participation in the Trafford Music Service's Nursery Rhyme Festival.

At St Michael's, performances are central to our music curriculum, with regular opportunities for pupils to showcase their skills in front of an audience. Performances take place at Christmas, during the Year 6 leavers' assembly, and at the conclusion of 'Wider Opportunities' lessons. Our whole-school singing assemblies, held weekly, also promote a wide range of musical experiences tied to different cultures and times of year, further supporting spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development (SMSC) within the school.

Equal opportunities are fundamental to our approach, and we ensure that pupils learn about both male and female composers from diverse cultural backgrounds. Music is drawn from a wide range of traditions and is linked to religious and cultural celebrations such as Chinese New Year and Diwali.

St Michael's aims to weave music into the broader thematic curriculum, with a focus on developing musical skills progressively across year groups. Supported by Charanga resources, which provide teachers with training and curriculum-linked materials, our music curriculum aims to inspire all pupils to learn, grow as musicians, and embody the school's vision of achieving, believing, and succeeding.

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 Michael's CE Primary, pupils with a strong passion and talent for music are supported by the school, often through subsidised private instrument lessons. Some parents also choose to fund private tuition for their children. Regardless of how they are supported, these pupils are encouraged to showcase their musical talents by participating in various school performances, such as the Christmas concert.

The school actively encourages pupils to join after-school music clubs, with the school choir performing regularly during assemblies. At Christmas, the KS1 choir performs at local venues including care homes, supermarkets, and the Trafford Centre. The choir also participates in a local church Christmas service attended by parents from across the school. The KS2 choir takes part in the Young Voices event at the CO-OP Arena, offering further performance opportunities.

In terms of progression from classroom instrumental teaching, St Michael's offers a range of opportunities. In EYFS, pupils participate in the Nursery Rhyme Festival. In Years 4 and 5, pupils engage in brass lessons through the Wider Opportunities program during the spring term. In addition, funded pupil premium students have access to lessons in guitar, piano, and violin. The school also benefits from a specialist dance teacher who conducts weekly lessons, integrating both singing and dance. Pupil Premium Funding is instrumental in providing these valuable resources to enhance pupils' musical and performance experiences.

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.

Music Development Plan: Musical Experiences

Music Specialist Instruction: A music specialist teacher provides lessons across all key stages.

Choirs: Weekly after-school KS2 choir (for ages 7+) and KS1 choir.

Instrumental Lessons: Visiting teachers offer individual or group instrumental instruction.

Whole-Class Instrumental Lessons: Violin tasters available for Key Stage 2.

Performance Opportunities: Ongoing performances and concerts both in school and the local community.

Choir Information:

KS2 Choir: Mondays, 3:30-4:30 pm (Years 3 to 6). Singing in the choir builds confidence, self-esteem, teamwork, and supports mental health—all while being fun! Using Young Voices resources, children will enjoy a variety of songs, from pop to classical, with opportunities to perform both at school and at the Young Voices event at the Co-Op Arena.

KS1 Choir: Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm (Years 1 and 2). The KS1 choir will learn and perform Christmas songs at various venues, including local care homes, Riverbank Café, Trafford Centre, and Parkers Garden Centre.

Enrolment and Fees:

Junior Choir: £10 per year to cover the Young Voices participation fee.

Infant Choir: Free.

Instrumental Lessons (Piano, Violin, Guitar): Lessons are held in school and paid for by parents, arranged directly with Trafford Music Service. Additional after-school or Saturday lessons, including voice, are available through Trafford Music Service at the Claremont Centre (contact: music.service@trafford.gov.uk).

Practice and Instruments:

Instrument Quality: To support progress, it's beneficial for children to practice at home on a good-quality instrument. Practicing four times a week for at least 10 minutes is ideal. High-quality instruments enhance enjoyment, stay in tune, and are easier to play.

Encouraging Practice: Be your child's biggest supporter and let their teacher guide them with specific instruction. Even without regular practice, children can still benefit from in-school lessons. Consider creating a comfortable practice space, away from distractions. Reward systems, such as sticker charts, can also motivate regular practice.

Each year children in year 5 have the opportunity to perform at the professional venue – Sale Waterside Arts Theatre as part of Trafford Music Service Singing festival. This gives every pupil the experience of performing with children from different primary schools as well as being on a professional theatre stage in front of a live audience and seeing the dressing rooms and back stage area. Children sing as a class in unison as well as performing joint partner songs and part songs enabling them to sing and perform in harmony with others. Parents of our children are invited to watch the performance.

In the future

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

- Revise the Music Policy to align with and reflect recent updates within the Music Curriculum.
- Expand peripatetic music lessons school-wide, with the goal of establishing an ensemble within the next year.
- Ensure the Charanga program is effectively implemented across all classes and that staff feel confident using these resources in their music instruction.
- Develop a whole-school listening progression document.
- Create a performance calendar outlining scheduled performance opportunities for each cohort throughout the year.
- Design a music information leaflet for parents.