

Music development plan summary: St Monica's Primary School

This document set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026, July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Tew
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Sefton Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School, Link Music, Create Music

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 Monica's aims to foster a **lifelong love and enjoyment of music** in every child. The curriculum is designed to be inclusive, engaging, and practical, supporting pupils to listen, perform, compose, and evaluate music from a broad range of cultures and traditions. Music also plays a central role in the school's spiritual and liturgical life, with singing integrated into worship and celebrations.

Music is taught in every year group from **Nursery through to Year 6** by specialist teachers from **Sefton Music Service**. The curriculum has a clearly defined progression of skills that builds year on year and is informed by the **Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)**.

Instrumental Learning and Musical Knowledge

Throughout their time at St Monica's, children explore and learn to play a wide range of instruments, developing their confidence, technique, and understanding of music through progressive, hands-on experiences.

- **Nursery, Reception & Year 1:** Percussion instruments and singing
- **Year 2:** Percussion, singing, and ukulele
- **Year 3:** Clarinet
- **Year 4:** Brass instruments (trumpets, trombones, and baritones)
- **Year 5:** Woodwind instruments (clarinets)
- **Year 6:** Violins

Key musical knowledge is **revisited regularly** to support long-term learning and secure understanding. **Retrieval practice and reflection on prior learning** are embedded into every lesson to help pupils make meaningful connections between new and previous learning.

Our curriculum planning ensures **full coverage of the key musical concepts**, including: **pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure, and notation**.

Curriculum Time Allocation

- **Nursery & Reception (EYFS):** 30 minutes per week
- **Key Stage 1:** 1 hour per week
- **Key Stage 2:** 1 hour per week for three half-terms each academic year

In addition to curriculum music lessons, **EYFS and Key Stage 1** pupils take part in **weekly hymn practice**.

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 Monica's Catholic Primary School, we provide a wide range of **extra-curricular music opportunities** that enable pupils to develop their musical interests and talents beyond curriculum lesson time. These opportunities allow pupils to make further progress in **singing, instrumental performance, and ensemble music-making**.

Music Tuition Outside of Lesson Time

In addition to curriculum music lessons delivered by **Sefton Music Service**, pupils have access to a variety of **instrumental and vocal tuition** outside of lesson time.

Rocksteady Music School

Rocksteady offers pupils the exciting opportunity to be part of a real rock band, learning instruments, rehearsing together, and developing teamwork through music. Pupils perform in a concert each term to showcase their progress.

- Open to pupils in all year groups
- Opportunity to gain an **Ofqual-regulated music qualification** (accredited by Trinity College London)
- Some **free places available for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium**

Link Learning

Link Learning provides high-quality, creative **one-to-one tuition** tailored to each child's interests and abilities. Lessons are currently available in:

- Piano
- Guitar
- Vocal coaching

Available to pupils in **all year groups**.

Create Music

Create Music offers **group guitar lessons** in a supportive and collaborative environment.

- Available to pupils from **Year 2 upwards**
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Choir Opportunities

Our **school choir** provides children with the opportunity to sing together, perform to audiences, and represent the school at a variety of events. The choir focuses on hymns, seasonal music, and Christmas carols and performs regularly in:

- Church services
- Assemblies
- School celebrations
- Parish and community events

The choir is free for children to join, ensuring inclusive access for all pupils.

Progression Opportunities with Sefton Music Service

Sefton Music Service offers a wide range of opportunities for pupils to **further progress their musical learning outside of the classroom**. These opportunities are open to children and young people of **all ages and abilities**, from complete beginners through to Grade 8 and beyond.

Sefton Music Service aims to enable pupils to:

- Develop their **musical creativity**
- Discover new musical activities and future pathways
- Learn to **lead, collaborate, and work entrepreneurially**
- Build **technical proficiency** in music
- Meet and work with other **like-minded young musicians**

In addition to regular ensemble provision, Sefton Music Service organises **Sefton-wide performances and events**, providing pupils with valuable real-world performance experiences. These include:

- The **Mayor's Concert**
- Music for **Remembrance Sunday** at Five Lamps, Crosby and King's Gardens, Bootle
- The annual **Pentecost Festival** on Hope Street, Liverpool

- Other civic and community events across the borough

Pupils can access a wide range of opportunities through Sefton Music Services, including:

- Songwriting workshops
- Jazz Orchestra
- Brass Ensemble
- Junior Woodwind
- Junior Brass
- Intermediate Brass
- Wind Quartet
- Junior Strings
- String Orchestra
- Percussion Ensemble

These ensembles provide **structured progression routes** and enable pupils to rehearse and perform regularly in a **supportive, high-quality musical environment**.

All extra-curricular music opportunities are published on the **school website**, where parents and carers can find further information and sign up.

Progression Beyond the Core Curriculum

Pupils are supported to make **continued musical progress outside of lesson time** through:

- Access to instrumental tuition and ensemble opportunities
- Regular opportunities to perform in front of audiences
- Clear progression routes from whole-class instrumental learning to small-group or individual tuition
- Signposting to **music hub opportunities**, including out-of-school and weekend provision

Summary

Through a wide range of **co-curricular music opportunities**, St Monica's enables pupils to:

- Develop musical skills beyond lesson time
- Take part in choirs, bands, and performances
- Build confidence, resilience, and a lifelong love of music

These opportunities complement the curriculum and ensure that **all pupils can continue their musical journey**, regardless of background or experience.

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.

Performance and Singing Opportunities

Singing and performance are at the heart of musical life at St Monica's Catholic Primary School and are embedded across the school year. Every pupil has the opportunity to perform and develop confidence, musical skills, and a love of music.

- All classes regularly sing in church services.
- All classes perform in class assemblies, with singing included in every assembly. This ensures that every child experiences performing in front of an audience.

Key Performance Opportunities by Year Group

- **Nursery:** Nursery rhyme performance in October and Christmas songs performance
- **Reception:** Nursery rhyme performance in October and Christmas songs performance
- **Key Stage 1:** Nativity performance
- **Year 1:** Christmas performance at the parish hall for the local community
- **Year 2:** End of Key Stage 1 performance
- **Year 3:** Easter Pageant and spring performance at the parish hall for the local community
- **Year 4:** Sing for Sefton
- **Year 5:** Leaving Service for Y6
- **Year 6:** Christmas Carol Service and Leavers' Assembly

These performances help pupils develop **confidence, ensemble skills, and a lifelong love of performing**, while also strengthening links with families, the parish, and the wider community.

School Music Concerts

- **Christmas Music Concert:** Features all children attending extra-curricular music clubs, alongside selected pupils from each class to showcase their learning.
- **Summer Concert:** Similar format, giving pupils the opportunity to perform pieces learned in extra-curricular activities and lessons.
- **Rocksteady Concerts:** Each term, pupils participating in Rocksteady bands perform to **showcase their progress**.

External Performance Opportunities

- **Sing for Sefton:** Pupils join other local schools—around 1,000 children—to take part in an exciting concert. They also participate in professional rehearsal workshops.
- **Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra:** Key Stage 1 pupils attend a concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic, where they experience **storytelling through music** performed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

These experiences ensure that pupils at St Monica’s have **regular opportunities to perform in a variety of contexts**, building musical skills, confidence, and teamwork, while fostering an enduring love of music.

In the future

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

At St Monica’s Catholic Primary School, we are continually reviewing and developing our music curriculum and co-curricular opportunities to ensure **high-quality music provision** for all pupils.

This year, we have **introduced a new music curriculum**, and over the next academic year, we will focus on **embedding this fully** across all year groups. Our aim is to strengthen pupils’ progression in musical skills, creativity, and performance confidence.

Planned Developments

- **Drumba Club:** We are planning to introduce **Drumba**, a fun, high-energy activity that combines drumming with aerobic movement, giving pupils a full-body workout set to music.

- **Expanded Music Concerts:** This year saw the launch of our first school music concert. Next year, we aim to **develop this further** by performing in a **larger, external venue** to accommodate more pupils, families, and community members.
- **Termly class performances** to further enrich musical learning.

These planned improvements reflect our commitment to the **seven features of high-quality music provision**, including progression in performing, composing, and listening, alongside opportunities for pupils to **perform, collaborate, and develop musical creativity** in a variety of settings.

By continuing to develop both curriculum and co-curricular music, we aim to ensure that every child at St Monica's has the opportunity to **grow as a confident, skilled, and enthusiastic musician**.

Further information

Sefton Music Services: <https://www.seftonmusicservice.com/>

Music page on the school website -

<https://www.stmonicascatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/music-1>