

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

Detail	Information
The academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Catherine Gonella
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Jessica Birtles and Mrs Rosie Evans
Name of local music hub	Surrey Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	SSP Choral

This summarises 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 plan in future years. This information is to help pupils and their 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.

Listen, Appraise, Compose and Perform

Music is a universal language and a core creative subject. Our Music curriculum aims to develop a broad and deep knowledge of the key musical elements through clear, sequential and engaging lessons. We encourage children to learn rhymes and songs from the moment they join us in the Early Years. As children progress, we develop and deepen their understanding of all aspects of music, enabling them to listen, compose, and perform.

The Music curriculum at St. Joseph's ensures all children have a varied diet of music throughout their school life. Within their music lessons, children learn through vocal expression and the opportunity to use various instruments, such as percussion, recorders, glockenspiels, ukuleles, and keyboards. Alongside this, children participate in singing assemblies, concerts, masses, and performances, as well as have the opportunity to access instrument lessons and join a choir.

Children will listen to various music genres from different time periods (such as classical, jazz, Motown and pop) and learn what inspired their creations. We offer a broad range of experiences and tools to allow children to express themselves creatively through various performances.

The elements of music are taught with a focus on a particular song and an identified instrument each term. Each unit has six explicit skills: listening and appraising with links to key musical language, instrument focus, improvisation, composition including notation, performance and evaluation. We use Charanga, a scheme recommended by the Surrey County Council, to support the base of our teaching. In addition, each year group learns two new songs a term and listens to various music genres that focus on listening and appraising. They will also specifically focus on a given classical composer, looking at their life and works, using the BBC's Ten Pieces.

The highlight of our year is 'Music Day', a theme-based event designed to engage all children from Nursery to Year 6 in a day of musical activities.

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.

As pupils at St Joseph's, children are encouraged to join a musical group of their choice to inspire them on their musical learning journey. In Key Stage 1, children enjoy watching the yearly pantomime and live performances in school. In Key Stage 2, children can join the popular school choir, which meets weekly and performs regularly throughout the year. In 2025, the Key Stage 2 choir had over forty members. These clubs are all teacher-led and free of charge, accessible to all pupils.

Furthermore, St Joseph's is supported by Surrey Arts, which provides piano, guitar, and violin lessons to children in a 1:1 or 2:1 setting, an additional activity organised between the family and Surrey Arts. Other instruments are also available, and parents liaise directly with Surrey Arts regarding options. These instrumental lessons are charged separately; however, there is availability for children of FSM and Looked-after children.

Finally, there is an external company that brings its musical expertise to St Joseph's:

- Rocksteady specialises in building children's confidence by making music fun, regardless of experience. Children can choose to learn the drums, keyboard, electric guitar, bass, or vocals. As a band, the children then choose their own band name and the songs they'd like to play, ultimately performing for their parents at an end-of-term concert. Children work towards a Trinity College Music mark.

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.

Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities for children to learn and practice songs and hymns and then perform these for others in a range of ways:

- Singing is a key focus of pupils' musical experiences at St Joseph's, and all children participate in twice-weekly assemblies with singing at their core, as well as Masses, Liturgies, and other events throughout the liturgical year. Every child also participates in their class assembly, which is performed to the entire school community and external visitors.
- All children are given the opportunity to perform to a public audience at least once a year within the school, such as KS1 Christmas Nativities, KS2 Carol Concerts, Way of the Cross and the Year 6 end-of-year Drama productions, all of which include many opportunities for solos, duets, and choir performances.
- Yearly House Music day
- Year 3 Choral Diocesan Day
- Year 3 sing for the Diocesan Christmas Card
- The KS2 School Choir is given a range of opportunities to perform to a broader community, for example, carol singing at the Hospital, performing at the School Fair and attending the yearly Primary Schools Music Festival at GLive.
- Instrumentalists are given the opportunity to perform as part of an orchestral ensemble with other musicians from local primary schools, forming a one-off orchestra that performs at the Music Festival at GLive.
- Two selected children are invited to attend the Xavier Young Musician of the Year Award at Cardinal Newman Catholic School. Being chosen to perform for our school is a fantastic opportunity and honour.
- Mr Ellson, Choral Director from The Diocese, teaches each of the Year 3 classes a range of hymns and songs each week. They build their repertoire throughout the year, preparing for an end-of-year performance.
- A selection of Year 3, St Joseph's and St. Peter's Choirs were chosen to sing at a special 'The Diocesan Mass' for Bishop Richard.
- Selected St. Peter's instrumentalists and St. Joseph's Choir for a summer concert, as well as Mr Ellson's Year 3 singing classes, as a showcase of everything musical.

This wide variety of performance opportunities and musical experiences develops a keen love of singing and performing while simultaneously developing our children's confidence and self-esteem. These experiences help children develop a passion for music that will stay with them in their future lives.

In the future

This concerns the school's plans for the years to come.

Priorities for the future, whilst also focusing on all activities and experiences detailed above, are as follows:

- Development of composing across the school to show a clear progression from year to year
- Increase in curriculum music provision in Key Stage 2 after recent timetabling changes.
- Re-introduction of a half-termly singing assembly, to introduce the children to some new hymns.
- Continue to build on a range of musical clubs for children to access further instruments, focusing on Key Stage One and FSM pupils.
- The orchestra will be composed of instrumentalists from across the school, who will have access to weekly rehearsals and opportunities for live performances throughout the year.
- Introduce the role of Music Ambassadors with clear roles and responsibilities for a select group of Year 6 musicians to mark and celebrate pupils' pride in their commitment to and passion for music.
- Extension of the range of musical experiences on offer: for example, attending St Peter's end-of-year Musical or a trip to the Royal Albert Hall's 'Music For Youth' concert as a further opportunity to experience live performances.
- Develop Topic Webs of the previous year's learning and addition of retrieval activities for music lessons.

Further information

Xavier Catholic Education Trust: <https://www.xaviercet.org.uk/>

Surrey Arts: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/arts>

Rocksteady <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

M:Tech: <https://mtechonline.co.uk>