



Music

Development Plan

2024-25

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Joseph McQuaid
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester and Blackburn with Darwen Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bolton Music Service

This is a summary outlining how music education is delivered at St Brendan's RC Primary School and how we aim to develop skilled, passionate musicians. This document focusses on four areas: curriculum music, co-curricular provision, musical experiences, and the changes that we are planning for the future. This information is to help our 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

At St Brendan's RC Primary School, we have designed our Music curriculum to deliver the National Curriculum (2014) and Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (2023) in an exciting and engaging way, by giving our children a wide range of opportunities to experience music and develop their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Children have weekly music lessons in which they access high quality teaching. At St Brendan's, our music lessons build towards a showcase afternoon called 'St Brendan's Festival of Music' during which each class present their musical learning through presenting a song. Our music lessons cover all aspects of the curriculum including singing, performing, playing instruments, listening and composing.

Years three and four have the opportunity to learn how to play tuned instruments. Currently, year three are learning how to play the ukulele and year four are learning how to play the recorder. In years five and six, children continue to further the instrumental skills they learnt in previous years.

Each year group has a knowledge organiser that contains all the main knowledge for that specific year, including: notation, vocabulary, expected skills and suggested listening.

Listening plays an important role in our music curriculum at St Brendan's. Every lesson, the children are given the opportunity to listen to a wide range of music and comment on them freely using musical vocabulary.

The songs that the children perform during the two 'St Brendan's Festival of Music' are carefully picked for a number of reasons: appropriate difficulty level and relatability to the children. In ks2, the children often choose their performance song democratically.

At St Brendan's we ensure we embed music across the curriculum, and consequently children have multiple opportunities across the day to engage with music. Such opportunities like daily liturgies, curriculum songs in topic and maths, weekly hymn practice and regular assemblies.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

At St Brendan's we aim for all our children to be lovers of music. Our teachers share a passion for music and provide multiple opportunities throughout each week for children to share this passion. Being a proud Catholic school also gives us increased opportunities to engage in song. Examples of extra-curricular music that is witnessed throughout a regular week at St Brendan's include:

- 15 minute Hymn practice every week for all children and all staff.
- Our regular assemblies always include song and mass singing.
- We attend Mass regularly at our local church during which the children lead the congregation in hymns.
- We are very proud of our Ks2 choir which has an average of 40 children every year. They meet weekly for practise in preparation for performances and shows.
- We also provide opportunities for musical instrument lessons led by Bolton music service. Our current instrument lessons are for guitar, keyboard and cello.

Part C: Musical experiences

High quality musical experiences ensure our children grow a passion for music outside of their curriculum learning. Musical experiences that our children engage in are:

- Choir performances at events such as Bolton Schools Music Concert and Bridgewater Hall.

- Our Choir have also performed Christmas Carols for the local care home's Christmas party.
- We are very proud of our Nativity Service and Easter Service in church which involve every child in school performing the Christmas and Easter story through song for parents.
- Our children are often invited to sing at collaboration events of local schools, such as Thornleigh's Carol Service.
- We plan themed days focussing on a range of topics such as charities, curriculum subjects and bullying, that have a strong music theme, for example Rock Kids.
- We have taken our children to experience orchestras at events such as the Mayor's Christmas Concert.

Part D: In the future

We plan to introduce the following in order to improve and enhance music provision at St Brendan's:

1. Continue to reach out to the local community to provide more performance opportunities for our children e.g. sing at the care home across the year, not just Christmas.
2. Provide an ensemble after school club for children who have learnt instruments to further develop their skills as part of a band.
3. Continue to invite parents in to school to watch our St Brendan's Festival of Music performances.
4. Further develop the children's knowledge around famous composers through explicit teaching and exposure to their music.