Music development plan summary: St Bernadette Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Z Flatt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Z Flatt and K Merrell
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire 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 Bernadette Catholic Primary School, we follow a bespoke written music curriculum created by our music specialist Mrs Flatt. It has been designed to follow the National Curriculum and also includes many elements taken from the 2021 Model Music Curriculum. The curriculum has been edited and refined over a number of years to ensure purposeful, measurable, inclusive progression from Early Years through to Year 6. Unlike some subjects, progression in music is known to be non-linear i.e. the same skills grow and develop at different rates and need constant revisiting. To accommodate this our music curriculum at St Bernadette's operates on a spiral model. This ensures that children through the key stages are regularly revisiting and developing core musical skills which directly relate to the National Curriculum:

• Singing

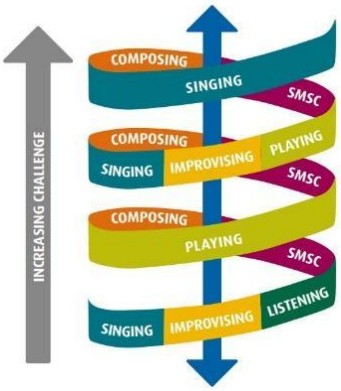
• Composing

• Improvising

• Playing

• Critical engagement (focussed listening)

• Social, moral, spiritual, and cultural (SMSC)



Class music lessons in Early Years and Key Stage 1 mostly centre on the use of movement, action songs and singing games to introduce and develop core musical skills which will provide a foundation for broader musical development in Key Stage 2.

At Key stage 2 we use the spiral curriculum idea to continue development of skills from KS1 but we also increase the emphasis on composing, performing and instrumental activities so that children have opportunities to develop their expressive, creative and technical abilities.

Critical listening activities form a regular part of lessons across the key stages and are planned to ensure a wide variety of styles and genres which reflect both the rich history and diversity of music in general and the cultural experiences of children in the school.

At St Bernadette's curriculum music is delivered to all children in the school for 30 minutes per week by our specialist Mrs Flatt. Class teachers are also in possession of all music planning and regularly liase with Mrs Flatt so that they can further develop music activities during class time with the aim of linking learning to wider curriculum areas. We aim, in this way, to provide at least 1 hour of music provision per week for all children in the school. Children in KS2 also have a weekly singing assembly and access to the school choir.

Music lessons across the key stages at St Bernadette are planned to be accessible to all children regardless of disabilities or special educational needs. To this end, there are notes about how we support children with special educational needs in each module of our music schemes of work. Mrs Flatt will regularly liaise with the SENCO and class teachers so that they are aware of any specific issues which may affect

individual children in their lessons. We use a document called Barriers and Solutions to help ensure that children's individual needs are catered for.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

To complement the music curriculum delivered through classroom teaching, St Bernadette Catholic Primary School offers a wide range of co-curricular musical opportunities. These experiences aim to nurture pupils' musical interests, develop their confidence and skills, and provide opportunities for creativity, collaboration and performance. All opportunities are inclusive and open to every child, regardless of prior experience or musical ability.

Instrumental lessons

St Bernadette's has previously worked in partnership with Hertfordshire Music Service, which has provided whole-class instrumental tuition through its *First Access* programme for Year 4 pupils. Instruments explored through this programme have included the ukulele, giving children the opportunity to develop basic instrumental skills and experience making music together.

We are also preparing to launch a partnership with **Rocksteady Music School**, offering pupils the exciting opportunity to learn an instrument and develop their musical skills as part of a band. Through regular rehearsals and group performances, children will develop their musicianship, teamwork, confidence and enjoyment of making music collaboratively.

Yearly events

Music plays an important role in the wider life of our school, with a range of annual events providing opportunities for pupils to share and celebrate their musical learning.

These include:

- A whole-school Harvest celebration, incorporating music and singing.
- Christmas Nativity performances across all key stages, giving pupils opportunities to develop their singing, performance and expressive skills.
- An end-of-year production led by Year 6, providing opportunities for pupils to showcase their talents through music, drama and performance.

As part of the ASCAT Academy, pupils also have opportunities to participate in collaborative musical events alongside children from other schools across the academy. These experiences broaden pupils' musical horizons, encourage

collaboration beyond their own school community and enable them to celebrate music together.

Part C: Musical performances

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.

Singing Assembly

There is a weekly singing assembly during which children are able to further develop their singing skills and enjoy a wide variety of songs both spiritual and secular. These assemblies provide the opportunity to learn and rehearse songs for the various religious festivals and masses which take place throughout the year, but there are also many opportunities to perform and enjoy songs from other musical traditions.

In addition to the above, musical material is always included in our regular non-singing assemblies and is carefully curated to reflect the themes in the assembly itself and the diverse cultural capital in our school.

Shows and performances

At St Bernadette's we have a strong tradition of musical shows and performances.

Every year all the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes are involved in a musical Christmas performance or Nativity. Singing, both solo and in groups plays a central role in these performances and helps to build confidence and performing abilities.

There is also a Christmas show every year for KS2. Year 5 rehearse and perform a complete Christmas musical production and Years 3, 4 and 6 support the singing in chorus and ensemble parts. In this way we are able to include all KS2 children in the performance.

At the end of the summer term year 6 rehearse and perform a summer show. Probably the flagship event of the school year, this is usually a well-known musical which involves opportunities for solo, small group and large chorus singing. As with the Y5 production at Christmas, all the chorus and ensemble parts are supported by the rest of KS 2 so that all children have an opportunity to be involved in developing their singing and performing skills.

In the future

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

- **Making links between instrumental tuition and classroom music:** Develop opportunities for pupils who receive instrumental tuition to apply, share and develop their instrumental skills within class music lessons. This will enable children to make meaningful connections between their individual instrumental learning and the wider music curriculum, while celebrating and valuing the musical skills within our school community.
- **Establishing a KS2 Choir:** Introduce a Key Stage 2 choir to provide additional opportunities for pupils to develop their singing skills, vocal confidence and understanding of ensemble performance. The choir will offer children the opportunity to sing a varied repertoire of music, work collaboratively and perform at school events and wider community and academy occasions.
- **Broadening musical participation:** Continue to develop inclusive musical opportunities that enable all pupils, regardless of prior experience or ability, to engage in music-making, develop their talents and experience the enjoyment and sense of achievement that comes from performing together.
- **Making purposeful cross-curricular links:** Continue to develop meaningful connections between music and other areas of the curriculum, ensuring that musical experiences complement and enhance pupils' wider learning. Where appropriate, link musical activities, listening opportunities, composition and performance to specific topics and themes being explored across the curriculum.