



## Music development plan summary: Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should 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	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	30/9/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	19/6/2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Adam Lowell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Adam Lowell Collegiate Music Lead – Mrs Liz Amison
Name of local music hub	City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent Ruth Steele – Lead for City 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 Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Academy we use the Charanga's English Model Music Curriculum Scheme which is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) Guidance published by the DfE in 2021. Music is timetabled and taught for one hour per week per class.

This Scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with 'I Can' statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids.

Our Music Scheme (Charanga) follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach ensuring all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs receive teaching adapted to meet their needs.

<https://www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=48>

Our philosophy of music education is based on the following quote : *A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.*  
National Curriculum for Music (2014)

We believe in principle that our Music curriculum should be fun and engaging for all concerned, and that every child is a born musician. Music plays a role in every aspect of our lives, wherever and whoever we are. For this reason, we divide the academic year into six units, each corresponding with one of our six recurring Social Questions, combined with a unique Musical Spotlight.

Our MMC Scheme is suitable for children aged 5–11, with six self-sufficient units per year. Each unit is structured into six steps which can be covered as you see fit, though a pace of one step per weekly lesson may suit the pace of your academic year well. The first step of each unit introduces that unit's focus in terms of content, skills and knowledge; the middle steps then develop this, and the final, sixth step assesses the learning through exciting performances.



At the centre of each step – each lesson – is a song around which the musical learning is centred. Each lesson has an easy-to-follow structure complemented by an array of supporting documents, lesson plans and resources that take you through listening, singing, performing, composing and improvising exercises with the children in each class.

As part of our school Music offer children in Year 3 are taught the Recorder using the Charanga resources. Year 4 are taught the Ukulele using the Charanga resources. There are opportunities interweaved throughout the scheme for the use of percussion instruments and the glockenspiel.

In Year 5 children are taught the glockenspiel more comprehensively using the Charanga scheme resources, and children in year 6 are taught the keyboard, building on elements learnt when practising the glockenspiel and developing further skills in playing chords alongside individual notes.

Therefore, all children gain the experience of playing a musical instrument during their time with us at OLSB.

## 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.

In addition to the timetabled 1 hour slots for the teaching of the Music curriculum. The school provides the opportunity on a weekly basis to learn new songs and practice songs that they know in the weekly Collective Singing Assembly. Mr Adam Lowell (Music Lead), who provides live music accompaniment on the guitar leads this. The children then sing these hymns on a fortnightly basis in church as part of the Holy Mass with Mr Lowell playing the guitar.

Children in Year 4 –Year 6 are also given the opportunity to learn the guitar during their time with us. A specialist Music teacher from the City Music School of Stoke-on-Trent is employed for 2 hours a week to deliver guitar lessons in small groups of 1:6. These children are put forward for National exams when they are assessed as being ready. They are also given the opportunity to showcase their work and perform to peers, parents and the whole school throughout the year. The guitar is available to all pupils. The school utilises pupil premium funding to support all children in being able to have guitar lessons. This ensures access for all.

The school also has an After school Choir (City Songbirds and City Music Choir) which is led by a specialist Music teacher from the City Music School Stoke-on-Trent. These are all free to attend and are fully funded by the school.

Please find the link to the Music events on our school website : <https://www.ourla-dyandstbenedict.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=623&type=pdf>



City Music school also provides an Ensemble and Music groups after school at the Bridge Centre in Birches Head and we promote these groups with our children and families so that they can take up the offer and attend. There are a range of exciting evening activities for young musicians to participate in which include choirs, string orchestras, wind bands, brass bands, recorder, percussion and folk ensembles as well as theory lessons. All of the activities are free of charge. Like-minded and enthusiastic young musicians attend the ensembles and develop many musical skills as well as increasing their confidence and self-esteem.

## 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.

The school sets out it's musical experiences which are planned for the academic year, this is posted onto the school website. This can be found here :

<https://www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=623&type=pdf>

There are also regular events such as singing in assembly, fortnightly singing in Mass and worship, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

A few examples include that Children always take part in the Young Voices concert at Birmingham where they get the opportunity to sing alongside school children from across the Midlands alongside a famous singer. We also take part in the Lichfield Cathedral School Music Project where the children are taught songs by a Choral teacher and then get to perform them to an audience. The children take part in the Penkhull Music Festival each year where they come together with children from across the Midlands to watch a live performance and to perform learnt songs to an audience. The choir take part in the Songbirds concerts at The Victoria Hall in Hanley where they come together to sing with children from across the City schools and they then perform to a packed audience. The choir also visit the local care home and assisted living apartments three times a year at 'Oak Priory' where they sing for the residents. The children also take part in the annual Recorder Festival at the Victoria Hall. Every year all children are taken to the New Victoria Theatre to watch a live performance of a classic story brought to life with live music, dance and drama.



## In the future

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

The guitar is becoming further established within the school. This year the school has introduced Keyboards into Year 6. The school desires to source further instrumental tuition including base guitar and percussion. We are also investigating the possibility of creating a small 'rock and pop' group.

We will also work on a Music concert and production linked to skills learnt in the computing curriculum.

## Further information (optional)

### School

<https://stokecms.org.uk/schools/>

### Parents

<https://stokecms.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Ensemble-Flyer.pdf>

<https://stokecms.org.uk/join-a-music-group/>

<https://themusicpartnership.org.uk/schools/music-groups/>

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.