



St Antony's Catholic Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary

Details	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Federico
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs S Johnson
Name of local music hub	Redbridge Music School
Name of other music education organisation(s)	N/A

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our children 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 children and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our children's music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

St Antony's Catholic Primary School aims to educate, develop and inspire children to achieve their full musical potential.

Music inspires creativity and develops essential skills for enhancing children's confidence and self-expression. We therefore aim to provide a wide range of musical experiences for all children through our ambitious curriculum. Music is taught to each class either weekly or in blocks of learning, equivalent to 45 minutes per week. At St Antony's all children have the opportunity to participate in singing, tuned and un-tuned percussion work, composition and listening to live and recorded music. Lessons are adapted to ensure that they meet the needs of all children, including those with special educational needs (SEND), those with musical gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language.

Our music curriculum begins in our Nursery where children learn to sing songs and rhymes, pitch match, sing the melodic shape (moving melody, such as up and down, down and up) in familiar songs and create their own songs or improvise a song around one they already know. The pre-school music curriculum is designed using Development Matters. Lessons take place in whole class or small group sessions as well as during child-initiated learning time.

Teachers in Reception to Year 6 follow a scheme called Charanga as the basis for music curriculum planning. Charanga is a child-centred musical approach which allows teachers with little musical knowledge to grow in confidence in their teaching of the subject. Musical skills are taught progressively, moving from the simple to the complex in small, logical steps. Children learn the musical elements of pulse, rhythm, and in-tune singing using solfa through a wide range of musical repertoire, including chants, songs, rounds, canons, circle games, name games, rhythm games, action games, turn-taking games, puppet games and more. They progress to instrumental activities, arrangements, compositional work and notation as the children gain in experience and confidence. The songs have been specifically chosen to be within the children's pitch range – which is an

important consideration when children are learning to sing in tune. Most of the songs are short, repetitive and easy to learn. Repetition is vital as repeated practise enables children to internalise their musical skills.

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Our music curriculum also promotes our school values. Group work, independent practice and perseverance, creativity and having the confidence to perform are built in and allow children to succeed and develop as individuals. Children take part in singing in our weekly school assemblies as well as through singing hymns during mass.

A wide range of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments are regularly available for use in music lessons. Children are also given the opportunity to learn to play the recorder and the glockenspiel as part of the music curriculum during their time at St Antony's.

Where relevant, the music curriculum has been planned in line with the content of other curriculum subjects. The music knowledge, skills and concepts children acquire across the school are then applied to their cross-curricular topics, allowing children to use their music skills to reflect on and explore curriculum content in greater depth. In many cases, history, geography, science and computing work is also linked to the music units, allowing children to apply their musical knowledge in creative ways e.g., by learning historical facts about life in the bronze age through a song.

Teachers assess children throughout each unit and ensure that they are making progress towards the end of key stage national curriculum expectations at the end of each academic year. Throughout the year, the subject lead will monitor the music provision (e.g., through lesson observations, planning, performance videos and pupil voice) and standards at the end of each key stage are monitored annually.

Our school is supported by our local music hub Redbridge Music Service. They provide CPD opportunities for staff and regularly provide us with free recitals from the professional musicians who work at the Redbridge Music School.

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Part B: Co-curricular music

Extra-curricular music plays an important part and vital role in the life of St Antony's. Children have access to specialist instrumental lessons (1:1 or small groups) each week led by peripatetic teachers from the Redbridge Music Service and through private teachers. Parents can request for children to have these lessons in school in a range of instruments including piano, violin, cello, woodwind, brass guitar and drums.

There is a thriving KS2 choir, who meet regularly to learn new songs with multiple parts and harmonies. They rehearse for regular performances, including performing within the school to children and parents/carers.

The diocese of Brentwood run a choir for the children in Year 3, focusing on singing techniques used in a wide repertoire of hymns and worship songs.

At our weekly celebration assemblies, children are encouraged to share their musical achievements outside of school with us. At the start of the school year, teachers talk to the children about their out of school hobbies so that we can encourage, support and nurture their talents.

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We have strong links with our local music hub, Redbridge Music Service! We promote the services they offer to our school community. Children can learn a wide range of instruments at the Redbridge Music Service held on weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Instrumentalists are then invited to participate in ensembles, bands and orchestras.

Part C: Musical experiences

There are a wide range of musical events opportunities planned across the school year.

Children sing in assemblies, at church masses and during class assemblies.

Year groups present annual musical performances to the school and parents/carers:

- EYFS – Christmas Nativity
- Years 1 & 2 – Christmas Nativity
- KS2 – Annual Christmas Carol Concert
- Year 6 – End of school musical production

Children rehearse and perform songs with their class and collaborate with children from across their year group.

Children who take music lessons in school or who learn an instruments or have vocal coaching outside of school are encouraged to take part in performances to showcase their musical skills, including an annual recital for children in upper key stage 2. Redbridge Music Service often provide string, woodwind and brass ensemble recitals to us for free, in order to inspire pupils to take up a musical instrument and engage them in 'live' music experiences.

Our successful choir perform regularly at a range of events and competitions:

- Redbridge Choral Festival performance at the Royal Albert Hall (March 2025)
- Summer Fete

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In the future:

We are considering the following to further improve our music provision:

- Continuing to work with teachers and parents/carers to identify pupils that have a talent for music and signpost them to wider opportunities with the Redbridge Music Service and further afield.
- Research into alternative music schemes in order to ensure that every aspect of the Music curriculum is comprehensively covered.
- Increasing the opportunities to see live musical performances e.g., inviting professional musicians from different cultures to perform for all children within the school.
- Creating an event where children can showcase their talents e.g. End of year recitals
- Signing up to whole class instrumental teaching for upper KS2 ensuring all children get the opportunity to be taught by music professionals during their time at St Antony's.

- KS2 choir to give back to the local community by putting on performances at local care homes and events.

Further information

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.

For further information on what our local music hub, Redbridge Music Service, provides please visit their

website: <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/redbridge-music-service/>

Further details of our music curriculum can be found on our school website.

Online learning:

BBC Bitesize EYFS - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2fyrmn>

BBC Bitesize KS1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7tnvcw>

BBC Bitesize KS2 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zwxfhg8>

Oak National Academy - <https://www.thenational.academy/pupils/years>

Music Venues:

Kenneth More Theatre, Ilford - <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/kenneth-more-theatre/>

The Royal Albert Hall - <https://www.royalalberthall.com/>

The O2 - <https://www.theo2.co.uk/>

The Barbican - <https://www.barbican.org.uk/>

The Southbank Centre - <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/royal-festival-hal>