

Music development plan summary: St Edmunds Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Victoria Brodbin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs Elizabeth Higgins
Name of local music hub	Surrey Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Surrey Arts Rock Steady

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.

The music curriculum at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom through the structured music programmes: Charanga, Jolly Music and BBC Ten Pieces BBC Music, following the Model Music Curriculum, as well as the weekly singing assemblies, instrument lessons, concerts, Masses and performances in addition to workshops, Choir, Choral singing lessons and Choral Singing Club. As a result, St. Edmund's provided a variety of opportunities to experience quality music education for all.

All children at St. Edmund's experience full class Music lessons each week and Key Stage 2 also have specialist teaching in Choral singing through the support of the

National Schools Singing Programme, to ensure the children have at least music for one hour per week in total.

The elements of music are taught in lessons so that children are able to use relevant musical language to dissect it, understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom children learn key aspects of music through cross-curricular links. They also learn how to compose (including using technology), focusing on different dimensions of music, including notation, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music.

Composing or performing using body percussion, vocal sounds and graphic scores is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument. Children are also taught to play the recorder (Year 1, 2 and introducing into Year 5) and glockenspiel from Year 2 throughout their education at St. Edmund's, as well as being able to experiment with a range of other tuned and un-tuned instruments from EYFS and Garage band in Year 6.

History of Music is key in the Music curriculum, with a focus on different music and musicians each week through the headteacher's assemblies. In lessons, teachers also introduce the pupils' particular musicians / composers and the impact of their music, whilst listening to a catalogue of their compositions. Musicians come from a wide range of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres (- introduced through the Charanga Scheme MMC).

Music: A Curriculum Supporting **all** pupils:

- At St. Edmund's, we create a music making environment where ALL pupils feel happy to explore, experiment and 'make mistakes' – therefore understanding how to develop and improve their musical skills and knowledge.
- It is important to include a range of multi-sensory approaches in each Music lesson (singing, moving, playing instruments, composing) so we ensure all children can engage with their preferred learning style. Where possible, we always provide opportunities to learn music through physical contact with an instrument. (Using Charanga MMC as our main scheme)
- Younger pupils respond particularly well to puppets, characters, props and pictures, adding another dimension to their learning (Using Charanga and Jolly Music).
- Children are supported with written aspects of music: Creating graphic scores when composing. We also use these as a visual support for pupils.
- Singing – learning by rote removes the barrier of reading. The combination of melody and words supports their memory development and removes the need for written text.
- Instruments – when playing tuned percussion, we physically remove unnecessary notes. This removes distraction and sensation of being overwhelmed.

- Bursaries given to children who are identified as vulnerable or FSM (Rock Steady).

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.

As a pupil at St Edmund's, children are encouraged to join a musical group of their choice to further inspire them on their musical learning journey.

In Key Stage 2, children are able to join the popular choir which meets weekly and performs regularly throughout the year including Young Voices and at a charity concert for the Fountain Centre for Cancer patients). In 2024, the Key Stage 2 choir had over 50 members.

Musicians in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to join the Choral singing sessions after school – another group to inspire and encourage budding singers to achieve their potential with a qualified choral director. The children have the opportunity to perform in at least one concert during the year to share their learning.

The above clubs are all staff-led and free of charge, accessible to all pupils at St Edmund's

St Edmund's is also supported by Surrey Arts, who provide peripatetic piano, ukulele and violin lessons to children in a 1:1 or 2:1 or there is also a Ukelele club through Surrey arts in a group setting. These are additional activities organised between the family and Surrey Arts. Other instruments are also available, and parents liaise directly with Surrey Arts regarding options on offer. These instrumental lessons are charged separately, however there is availability for children of FSM and Looked after children.

Finally, an external company who brings their musical expertise to St Edmund's is Rock Stead. It specialises in building children's confidence, by making music fun, regardless of experience. Children can choose whether to learn the drums, keyboard, electric guitar or vocals. As a band, the children then pick their own band name and the songs they'd like to play, ultimately performing to parents at an end of term concert.

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.

Children have a wide range of opportunities to regularly perform both within school, and the wider community as part of their musical education at St Edmund's – ranging from the Reception Nativity and Christmas productions to performing for large audiences at the Young Voices, when the pupils can perform with thousands of other children at London's O2 Arena.

- Singing is a key focus of pupils' musical experiences at St Edmund's, and all children participate in twice-weekly Collective Worship with singing at their core, as well as Masses and other events throughout the liturgical year. Every child also takes part in their class assembly, sharing their learning with the entire school community, as well as external visitors.
- All children are given opportunity to perform to a public audience, at least once per year, both within school and within the wider community. Productions and concerts which are a key part of the calendar are: Class Assemblies (EYFS to Year 5), The Passion Play and Leavers' productions (Year 6). Pupils in KS2 also perform along with other schools at Young Voices.
- The festive performances at St. Edmund's are a highlight in the academic year, with all Reception, Years 1 and 2 performing a Christmas production together, including opportunities for solo and small group performances. Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 perform a range of carols and readings, at the local parish church, to a large audience: a concert which also gives a number of opportunities for solos, duets and choir performances.
- In addition to performances at school, all children have opportunities to serve the local community through performing and singing: for example, carol singing at a local care home, and performing at the School Fair and singing as part of a larger concert at a Christmas Concert in a Guildford church to raise money for the Fountain Centre which supports Cancer patients.
- For the last three years, St Edmund's has had pupils participating in the Xavier Musician of the Year event, joining musicians from all schools in the Xavier Trust, to perform and inspire other children, whilst competing for the title of Young Musician of the Year. Last Year one of our pupils was awarded this title. This event will continue in 2024/2025.
- At St. Edmund's we have developed strong links with the wider Xavier and Catholic community, which enables children to benefit from workshops and festivals with neighbouring schools including drumming workshops at Salesian.

This huge variety of performance opportunities and musical experiences develop a keen love of singing and performing, whilst simultaneously developing confidence and self-esteem in our children. We believe these experiences help children develop a passion for music that will stay with them in their future lives. We want to ensure that music is an inspiring and engaging experience, that enables every child to maximise their musical potential and develop an appreciation of the value of music that is deeply personal to them.

In the future

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

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

- To build on the recorder tuition in Year 2 further through KS2, to strengthen children's skills.
- Extension of the range of musical experiences on offer: for example, making closer link with St Peter's to experience live performances to inspire the pupils for next steps in their musical journey.
- Investigation into use of recording written music evidence.

Further information

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

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

National Schools Singing Programme: <https://www.nssp.org.uk/>

Rock Steady: <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>