

# St Patrick's RC Primary School

## Music development plan summary:

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Tom Lomax
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tom Lomax
Name of local music hub	Rochdale Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga

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.

In EYFS the main focus is singing and rhythm, although there are opportunities to explore instruments through music lessons and continuous provision. In addition, singing takes place throughout the school day, often linked to other learning opportunities, such as the singing of number rhymes. All our pupils are taught to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses; sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody; they explore and engage in music-making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

Within our curriculum music in KS1 and KS2, we teach all aspects of National Curriculum music and adhere to the recommendations in the Model Music Curriculum 2021 through Key Stage 2. We have adapted our music teaching to suit our wider school curriculum creating our own curriculum plan on Charanga.

Curriculum music in our school is taught for 1 hour each week in KS1 and KS2; music is also incorporated into other lessons and daily life around school (e.g. singing hymns and songs in Maths).

In EYFS, KS1 and KS2, every music lesson in our school will include the teaching of singing and opportunities for listening/appraising. In EYFS/KS1, each lesson will also include a focus on rhythm and pulse. In addition, music lessons will either have a focus on playing (including 2 formal music notation, especially in KS2) or improvising or composing; sometimes a combination.

In KS2, there is a balance of playing, improvising and composition across the year; some music units focus on one element more than another. In KS1, there is less focus on playing and a greater focus on musicianship (i.e. pulse/beat, rhythm and pitch). However, there is still a focus on improvisation and composition in KS1.

All music lessons begin with a listen and appraise section. The children are encouraged to discuss the interrelated dimensions of music. In EYFS this is pulse and rhythm, in KS1 children can describe the pitch, tempo and dynamics and in KS2 this extends to texture and timbre. The children listen to a huge range of music from across the world and appraise many different genres. The next part of the lesson is the warm-up, where the children sing and play their instruments, finding the pulse and copying back rhythms and melodies. The main part of the lesson then focuses on either improvising or composition. In KS1 children can recognise notation using the words “tadpole”, “frog”, “toad”, “pond” and “splash”. In KS2, children recognise tadpole is a quaver, frog is a crotchet, toad is a minim, pond is a dotted minim and splash is a semibreve. All lessons finish with a performance.

Singing is a strength of the school. Children sing in curriculum music, in class worship and Masses as well as in school and borough concerts and competitions. Pupils in Year 5 are taught by a specialist singing coach for 6 weeks and perform to parents and the wider community in a Christmas Performance. All pupils in KS1 and 2 have access to instrument lessons. In Year 5 and 6 they all learn to play the recorder, with resources supported by Charanga. In Year 3 and 4 they all learn to play the glockenspiel. In KS1 children learn to play the glockenspiel. Music Technology is taught through Yu Studio on Charanga to Year 5 and 6 pupils. All pupil premium children are fully engaged with curriculum music. All SEN pupils have been able to fully access curriculum music, we have a range of instruments in different sizes to support access to the curriculum. We use the following Key resources: Sing Up, Charanga (especially for music instrumental teaching), Out of the Ark (for songs linked to topics when appropriate), CJM Music.

## **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.

All our pupils sing tunefully and with confidence in Masses and worship sessions; pupils sing to a piano or to backing tracks. They also participate in performances at Christmas: EYFS and KS1 perform the Nativity and KS2 perform the Nativity in Spanish, pupils learn to sing traditional Spanish carols (villancicos) and modern classics in the Spanish language. As well as this, all KS2 children perform an end of year production which Year 6 lead. The whole school produces an Easter production to music, over a number of days, and sing hymns and modern songs linked to

the Passion of Christ. Throughout these performances some children confidently sing solos during the performances. We use singing to help 'sticky' learning in other subjects through, for example, songs which link to our history topic, songs which help us to learn the names of the oceans and/or continents in Geography. A choir, led by a member of staff, meet once a week after school. Children perform in concerts, in church and in the community (for example at the Rochdale Teaching Awards at the Town Hall and the Young Voices Performance at Manchester Arena). Keyboard and guitar lessons are provided by Rochdale music service for either small group lessons or private music lessons once a week to KS2 pupils (paid for by parents/ free for Pupil Premium children). Pupil Premium pupils are encouraged to access instrument lessons, this is funded by the PP grant. Each year, Year 5 pupils are taught to sing by a specialist Vocal Coach and perform for parents and parishioners at a Carol Service.

## **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.

All of our pupils perform in a variety of productions throughout their time at school. From the EYFS Nativity through KS1 Nativity Performances, KS2 Spanish Nativity, Year 6 Leavers' productions, and Whole School Easter Triduum. In addition to these, pupils perform a range of contemporary and traditional songs showing an appreciation of a variety of genres during the parent assemblies each term.

Pupils have an opportunity to hear live music weekly, during worship as we have music liturgy in place. Rock Kidz come to school each year to promote PSHE and equality through rock music, the school is transformed into a festival. Pupils watch and participate along with our 'rock leaders'.

Pupils of all ages attend the theatre once per year to watch a pantomime. Once during their time at St Patrick's, pupils have the opportunity to visit London and watch a West End show, last year they watched *Wicked*.

Pupils are encouraged to take part in musical theatre. One pupil has been in a long running show, 'Oliver' at Leeds Playhouse and at the Lowry in 'A Christmas Carol'. He is now on tour as part of the stage production 'Harry Potter'. Another pupil performed as a dancer in a local pantomime production. The school participates in the Royal Opera House Schools Project, in collaboration with other schools, through the Rochdale Music Service. Pupils have performed in *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Magic Flute*, *Carmen*.

Pupils compete in the Rochdale Schools Music Festival each year, at this event they have the opportunity to watch pupils from other schools as well as share their own gifts and talents. Feedback from judges has been constructive and increasingly positive, this has supported pupils with their own critical analysis.

Some trips are fully payable by parents, others are subsidised and some are free; this allows students to access the wide range of experiences on offer.

## **In the future**

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

Mr Lomax is the Music lead in school, Mrs Mitchell is our music teacher across school. Mrs Mitchell leads our choir and supports singing throughout school, leading school singing whilst Mr Lomax plays the piano. Mrs Mitchell also plays piano, and another two members of staff play the guitar. We intend to further expand music liturgy to encourage more pupils to take up peripatetic lessons.

We look to improve our teaching of music technology through the use of Yu Studio. Two new teachers in KS2 will need to access training. Using Yu Studio will also support teachers in teaching elements of composition.

We continue to develop the teaching of composing across the school; composing in KS2 can be taught through music technology.

We are seeking to develop the assessment of music.

We hope to increase opportunities for our children to experience and explore music from different cultures beyond what is currently in our curriculum.

We have booked to take the children to take part in the Young Voices Choir, to take part in the 30 years celebration.

## **Further Information**

We have a skilled team at St Patrick's comprising of 5 staff who play instruments. 3 staff hold music qualifications including; Grade 5 Piano, Grade 3 Singing, Grade 8 Guitar, GCSE Grade A Music, Extended Diploma in Music Technology, Music BA Honours Degree 2:1.