

## Music development plan summary

### 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 Irene Missen
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs Becki Gray
Name of local music hub	Surrey Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s)	N/A

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 Cuthbert’s Catholic Primary School ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate.

This is embedded in the classroom through a structured music programme. While in the past we have used ‘Charanga’ for our classroom teaching, from September 2024 we will be using ‘Get Set for Music’, following the Model Music Curriculum. Furthermore, all children attend weekly music assemblies led by the Diocese’ Choral Director, various masses and performances.

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, often 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 taught to play the recorder (Years 4-5), while the Glockenspiel as well as a range of un-tuned instruments are used during lessons throughout their education at St Cuthbert's, being able to experiment with instruments from EYFS.

The History of Music is key in the Music curriculum. Throughout the year, children learn about a variety of 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.

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

- At St Cuthbert'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.
- 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.

## 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.

In Key Stage 2, children are able to join the school choir, which was formed in 2023 and is led by the Choral Director. They meet weekly and perform throughout the year. In 2023/24, the Key Stage 2 choir had between 30 and 40 members. They attended the yearly Woking Primary Music festival.

The choral director from The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton also delivers choral singing practice for the whole school each week. He teaches music to our year 3 children using the Kodaly method.

St Cuthbert's is also supported by Surrey Arts, who provide peripatetic piano and violin lessons to children in a 1:1 or 2:1 setting, which are an additional activity 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.

## 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 range of opportunities to perform both within school, and the wider community as part of their musical education at St Cuthbert's.

The festive performances at Christmas are a highlight in the academic year, with all Reception children performing to a live audience after their first term at school. Years 1 and 2 perform a Christmas production together. Pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 perform a range of carols and readings, at the local parish church, to a large audience: an Advent Reflection which also gives opportunities for solos, duets and choir performances.

At the end of each academic year, our Year 6 children perform their Leaver's play to the whole school as well as their parents and families. Previous productions have included Aladdin and Alice in Wonderland etc.

Singing is also a key focus during weekly collective worships and school masses as well as the year group liturgies.

Our choir will also have the opportunity to perform as a combined choir with other schools, at the Woking Primary Music festival.

For the last two years, musicians from St Cuthbert's have attended the prestigious Xavier Musician of the Year event, where musicians from all schools in the Xavier Trust, perform and inspire other children, whilst competing for the title of Young Musician of the Year. This will continue in 2024/2025.

A 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.

Every other year we run our very own 'St Cuthbert's Got Talent' show which children can audition for and then perform in front of a whole school and parent audience.

## In the future

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

We will be extending the use of music technology through Garageband and Chrome Music Lab

Having joined the Xavier Catholic Education Trust we are continuing to develop strong links with the wider Xavier community. We hope that we can work with our feeder secondary school (Salesian) to arrange music workshops as well as invite their choir / band to visit our school. We will be looking to establish links with local musicians who will work with St Cuthbert's on giving our children more opportunities to explore music.

We are keen on inviting a further external company in who bring their musical expertise to St Cuthbert's and have started talks with 'iRock' who 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.

- To build on the Recorder tuition in Years 2 and 3, we envisage on introducing a recorder club, to strengthen children's skills.
- Looking into the use of floor books to record music evidence for KS1.

## Further information

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

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

Music Mark: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/about/>

M:Tech: <https://mtechonline.co.uk>

iRock: <https://www.irockschool.com/>