

Music development plan summary: Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	12/2/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	12/2/27
Name of the school music lead	Stephen Forrester
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Matt Toogood
Name of local music hub	Swindon Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Swindon Music Cooperative

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

Our aim at Holy Cross Primary School, is to ensure that every child is a musician with an embedded joy and curiosity for music that stays with them for life. We aim to achieve this by delivering a high-quality curriculum. It is stated that, 'Excellent music education opens opportunities...It gives children and young people an opportunity to express themselves, to explore their creativity, to work hard at something, persevere and shine. These experiences and achievements stay with them and shape their lives.' This is about what we teach in lesson time, as well as the musical opportunities that we provide beyond the classroom.

- At Holy Cross Primary School, we teach our music lessons through the on-line learning platform Charanga. This scheme allows all teachers to teach comprehensive and carefully sequenced music lessons, ensuring that all children progress and build upon their music skills throughout each year group. It is planned and taught in accordance with the National Curriculum. We are phasing in the new Charanga scheme which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum.

- Reception embeds music into their daily teaching and learning. This forms part of their Creative Development curriculum allowing them to appreciate music and express themselves through singing.
- Our Music Progression Skills Map details our student's progression of musical knowledge and skills. It is our aim for children to have access to one hour of quality music each week.
- Children throughout the school have the opportunity to sing within lessons and within assemblies and masses. There is a weekly whole-school singing practice.
- All classes play quiet relaxing music when the children enter the school. The music coordinator sometimes suggests music to be played and provides information about the music.
- A high-quality music education is a right for all children and we consider every child's individual needs without compromising on quality provision. Through the use of the Charanga on-line platform, music lessons are inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for all.
- The school offers instrument tuition to all pupils. The music coordinator frequently reminds all pupils that these lessons are available and that they can come and speak to him at any time. In Year 3, all pupils are taught a weekly lesson on one instrument for the whole year.
- We welcome regular music roadshows as part of the provision of the music hub, Swindon Music Service. This gives the opportunity for children from the whole school to experience live music in a variety of styles. It is often reported that the EYFS pupils really enjoy these experiences and that SEND pupils feel free to express themselves by dancing and joining in.
- We work closely with the music hub, Swindon Music Service, who provide our class instrument tuition, our subscription to Charanga, music roadshows and access to singing festivals. We also work closely with Swindon Music Cooperative who provide a wide range of instrumental and vocal tuition in the Swindon area.

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.

- We have visiting tutors from Swindon Music Cooperative (SMC) who deliver individual or small-group lessons during school time. These lessons are paid for by parents. Parents can apply to the SMC for financial support for these lessons. SMC often offer us a series of free lessons which we are able to deliver to our pupil premium children or other groups who would benefit from this opportunity.
- Swindon Music Service runs music workshops at weekends, such as Swindon Young Musicians. These are promoted to the children during music roadshows.

- There is a school choir which is run after school and is available to pupils in Years 4-6. The pupils learn and sing a variety of music and perform to the rest of the school, at the Junior Voice Festival, at Christmas events in town and to parents and the community.
- Pupils who play instruments are invited to join music ensembles to accompany Masses and other school performances.
- The pupils who learn instruments in school have opportunities to perform to the school during assemblies, supported by their tutors. We also have a regular talent show which gives any pupil to demonstrate their musical skills in a performance situation.

Part C: Musical experiences

Music is embedded in our school, and as such, it is crucial that we provide extra opportunities outside of lesson time for children to be curious about music and make progress beyond the core curriculum. We organise many musical events and opportunities such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

- The children sing in a weekly singing practice. Within these assemblies, children listen to different music each week covering different genres and styles. There is information and a discussion about the composer or artist and about 3 the style of music. Children are also given the opportunity to discuss and consider the interrelated dimensions of music they can hear.
- All children sing in all school Masses.
- There are opportunities to take part in music and dance festivals at the Wyvern Theatre.
- The children all attend a professional pantomime at Christmas which includes musical elements.
- We welcome roadshows from Swindon Music Service so that all children can experience a range of instruments being played live in a variety of styles. These roadshows cover percussion, strings, wind, brass rock and pop, and vocal. These roadshows often involve some participation from the children.
- There is a KS2 Choir that is run after school for pupils in years 4-6.
- Children in all year groups take part in a Christmas performance in front of an audience of parents and families.
- They also include songs in class assemblies.

- At the end of the year, Year 6 pupils rehearse and perform a musical production involving group and solo performances.
- All children take pride in performing in front of their peers and parents and learn a range of challenging songs that engage and stretch their music potential.

In the future

Holy Cross intends to continue to develop its provision of curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences for all pupils.

- We aim to phase in the use of the new curriculum offered by Charanga which supports the Model Music Curriculum (MMC): Key Stages 1 to 3 – the government's non-statutory guidance for the curriculum in England.
- This year we will aim for each class to give a musical performance to the rest of the school either as part of their class assembly or as a stand-alone performance. This will include performance skills such as entry and exit, positions on the stage and understanding of each child's role in the performance.
- We would like to explore the personalised use of Charanga's functions such as home instrument tuition which would offer a cost-effective method of children learning to play instruments.
- We will continue to promote instrument tuition at school using teachers from SMC and other partners.

Further information

Useful contacts:

Swindon Music Service <https://smscio.org/>

Swindon Music Cooperative <https://swindonmusiccoop.co.uk/>

Make Music Swindon <https://makemusicswindon.org/>