

Music development plan summary: Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	December 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Natalie Osborne
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

The information here will outline what is taught during our weekly music sessions. Our schools music curriculum can be found within the curriculum pages on the school website.

Information on how Our Lady supports access to all areas of the curriculum to offer an inclusive education to all can also be found on the school website.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel we work on the belief that music is a unique way of communicating; that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enable children to better understand the world that they live in. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children to feel part of a community. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop

the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel School, we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to express their feelings through making music. Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer, and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together. We also teach children to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces.

Our music curriculum is delivered through Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust's Music Service and it is delivered weekly by a trained music specialist. The children receive a weekly half an hour lesson delivered by a music teacher which involves learning and exploring a range of musical techniques and musical genres. The pupils also participate in a weekly school singing assembly where they can build on their skills of singing collectively, exploring different vocal techniques and forms.

There are also plenty of opportunities for the pupils to be able to participate in performances and collective Celebrations throughout the year to showcase their skills and talents. In EYFS and Key stage 1 there is the annual nativity performance, and in KS2 there are carol services and end of year productions. Collective worship is also a big part of our school week, we gather together for Celebration of the Word and Mass throughout each term.

As part of the weekly music lessons the children are able to explore, practice and perform with a range of different instruments to put together class performances usually to conclude a topic at the end of each term. At the end of the first term the children take their singing talents out into the community where they visit the elderly and the wider community with carol singing.

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.

As we move into the New Year we will be offering our KS2 pupils the opportunity to join a choir group and we are also looking at getting Music lessons up and running through Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT Music Service, which is a paid service that parents can access

online to book and pay for individual or group music lessons. For those pupils that are Children who are Looked After by the Local Authority may have their tuition fees subsidised by their Pupil Premium allocation. We also have children in school that receive a weekly lesson where they are working towards their grades in piano and violin which is a paid for 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.

Following Music lessons in school the pupils end their day with a singing assembly which they enjoy every week. As a school we also have the opportunity to sing collectively through our collective worship, Mass and celebration assemblies. During these gatherings the children get to sing using a variety of taught techniques such as rounds or melodies to perform hymns, carols and songs from different genres.

Pupils also have the opportunity to listen to the teachers from the OLOL music service showcase their skills and talents musically to instil interest and enthusiasm in our pupils to inspire them to learn an instrument.

As we move through the liturgical year as a Catholic school the pupils will listen to a range of modern and contemporary songs, hymns and music which link to the theme or event for that particular time of year.

In previous years the school has participated in young voices which has proven to be a fun and inspiring opportunity for the whole school community, both those taking part and for the rest of the school to be able to celebrate their peers skills and success. This is something we will aim to participate in for 2026.

In the future

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

The pupils at Our Lady show a real interest and enthusiasm for music in and around school, as part of their music lessons but also in cross curricular learning also. In subsequent years we are looking to further develop some aspects of the delivery of music in school such as:

- Providing music lessons for children through the OLOL Music Service.
- Establish a Key Stage 2 Choir.
- Secure links with the local Music Service to broaden musical opportunities and experiences for the pupils within the wider community.
- Offer pupils the opportunity to experience live musical performances.

Further information (optional)

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.