

ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL



Music Development Plan Summary 2023-2024

With Jesus alive in our hearts, we celebrate each other and learn together as a family.

Music development plan summary: Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023 – 2024
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss Z Cook
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Z Cook
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady

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.

At St Helen's Catholic Infant School, our intent for Music is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which enables children to create, play, perform and enjoy music; and equip children with the knowledge and skills to have a lifelong appreciation of a wide variety of musical forms. To ensure full coverage of the curriculum Music is taught in 6 blocks throughout the year. We teach music lessons for one hour a week, using the music scheme Charanga. Each lesson begins with Listen and Appraise where the children listen to different styles of music and share their thoughts and ideas about the music. Then there is games section which encourages children to think about some of the inter-related dimensions of music. In Year one the scheme focuses on pulse and rhythm and then progressing onto Year 2 it begins to look at structure, timbre, tempo and dynamics. Charanga allows opportunities for performance within the lesson. Children are given the opportunity to practise and perform a song to allow them to use their voices expressively and creatively. Charanga gives the opportunity to improvise with tuned instruments, with guidance given as to the notes. Children can then compose their own melody with a selection of notes given.

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The aims of music teaching are to enable children to:

- Listen carefully and respond physically to a wide range of music.
- To play musical instruments and sing a variety of songs from memory, adding accompaniments and creating short compositions, with increasing confidence, imagination and control.
- Encourage our children's understanding and enjoyment of music through an active involvement in listening, composing and performing.

Part B: Extra-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 one of our extra-curricular activities, we offer Glee club to the Year 2 children. This is an inclusive and enjoyable choir aimed to develop the children's love for singing and performing. Pupils rehearse once a week for one hour, as a group. The choir had the opportunity to perform at the both the Junior School coffee morning and Brentwood Cathedral at their Winter Warmer Soup Lunch for vulnerable parishioners. Feedback from the audience was extremely positive, with many people encouraging the choir to come back and sing again soon. One member of the public said "It was a heartfelt performance and the children sang beautifully." This further developed the relationship between the school and local community, enabling other similar events to happen in the future. Feedback from the parents also showed that this experience was extremely enjoyable for their children and themselves.

Our pupils also have the opportunity to join Rocksteady. This is a fun and inclusive in school rock band. They learn to play an instrument and can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing in a happy, supportive environment with their friends. Rocksteady is lead by extensively trained musicians who know how to inspire a life-long love of playing music. Lessons are 30 minutes long and take place in school time with all instruments provided, making it hassle-free for parents. The Rocksteady Programme is available for all year groups and is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills with no prior experience necessary.

To celebrate diversity we offer an African drumming workshop during Black History Month. This is available to all year groups, led by a highly skilled and experienced drummer. They offer a fully immersive learning experience to children through the positive power of drumming. Both entertaining and educational, the workshop is a great way of introducing children to culture they may not have much experience with.

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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.

Rocksteady have the opportunity to perform in an end of year concert at school, where the children showcase their progress to friends, teachers and parents with the rest of their band. This is a huge confidence booster and children shared that they love performing and it makes them feel proud. Tickets to the performances at the end of each term are always sold out and 100% of performers have someone in the audience come and watch them perform.

We value collaborative partnerships within our school. Classes and year groups work together to perform exciting and engaging liturgies, which involve the children singing in harmony together. Religious assemblies are important for us as a Catholic school, we perform a Nativity and an Easter assembly for parents and carers to watch every year. Additionally, three times a week, the children explore music and singing together during hymn practice. This enables them to develop their vocal skills and singing in unity.

To celebrate World Music Day, all year groups learn about instruments from around the world. They have the opportunity to explore the sounds of the instruments and design and make their own. It offers pupils a rich cultural experience while broadening their understanding of music beyond their immediate surroundings.

Music contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Children develop language skills through singing songs, with attention to diction, meaning, rhythm and rhyme. Music is also used to stimulate discussion or creative writing. Through working with others in a musical setting, children develop their ability to communicate ideas effectively.

In the future

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

Our plan for the subsequent years is to make links with professional bodies like Essex Music Hub and with local schools to support and nurture individual talents and creativity led learning. We have already built strong links with St Helen's Junior School and Brentwood Cathedral, which have proven successful for developing performance skills and self-confidence within the children.

We aim to continue holding celebration assemblies to recognise individual achievements, such as performances by Rocksteady and the Glee Club. Additionally, we will maintain our commitment to celebrating diverse musical cultures by offering African drumming workshops.

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Teachers and the music lead will enhance their monitoring of children's progress by increasing the use of iPad recordings. These recordings can also serve as tools for reflection and self-evaluation.

Further information (optional)

N/A

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