

Music development plan summary: St. Stephen's RC Primary, A Voluntary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Laura Herbert
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hannah Gibson
Name of local music hub	Tameside Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga Sparkyard Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme

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.

God created us with the gift of being able to sing, perform and make music. Our vision for Music at St. Stephen's is that pupils will be given opportunities to develop an appreciation of a variety of musical styles and genres, which forms an integral part of how we worship and pray to God. Through music, we feel that pupils are able to form a much closer relationship with God, and we value the joy that God's gift of music brings to our school community.

At St. Stephen's, pupils will acquire a range of instrumental and vocal skills, learning the resilience to practise, compose, perform and review. From Nursery to Year 6, pupils are taught music from the Charanga programme – a music curriculum designed specifically for primary schools which is structured so that pupils can review,

consolidate, deepen and apply their musical understanding over time. Pupils have access to a range of percussion instruments and glockenspiels to enrich their experiences with the Charanga programme.

To further enhance our music curriculum, we collaborate with a specialist teacher from Tameside Music Service, our local music hub. Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 learn an instrument for a term and a half, producing notes and learning to read basic musical notation. Year 3 pupils are given the opportunity to learn the ukulele; Year 4 play djembe drums and Year 5 tackle a brass instrument (this year the cornet).

Additionally, pupils in Year 3 and 4 receive weekly singing lessons from a choral director from Diocese of Salford's Schools' Singing Programme. These sessions are tailored to each year group and rooted in promoting good vocal techniques and pedagogy, linked to the liturgical year. Pupils benefit from high quality choral expertise from our choral director, who helps to prepare pupils for performances and services as well as inspiring a life-long passion for music-making through singing.

Pupils' musical achievements are celebrated in assemblies and performances for parents and carers to enjoy.

All pupils take part in praise assemblies and singing assemblies each week, where they learn to sing songs which celebrate our Catholic faith. These songs are sung in weekly masses at St. Stephen's parish church and included as part of our child-led 'Celebration of the Word' prayer sessions.

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.

Pupils in KS2 have the opportunity to join a choir, which takes place after school. The choir performs at various events and festivals throughout the year, with parents and carers invited to attend.

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.

Throughout the year, St. Stephen's offers a range of opportunities for musical performances for all year groups. This includes class assemblies, Christmas and Easter performances and end-of-year shows. All EYFS and KS1 classes enjoy

showcasing their musical talents in a Nativity production. KS2 pupils showcase songs linked to the liturgical season of Advent and Christmas at the KS2 Advent Service. Year 5 pupils produce a Passion Play during Lent. Year 6 never fail to amaze us with their singing and dancing as part of their end-of-year production. This year, for the first time, Year 5 will be working with the Halle Orchestra in Spring 2026 to develop their composition skills linked to their foundation subjects.

In the future

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

- **Updating of musical instruments** to enhance pupils' learning (djembe drums and ukuleles)
- **Research further extra-curriculum opportunities** – in particular instrument tuition for disadvantaged pupils
- **Research the implementation of the Model Music Curriculum**