

Music Development Plan Summary



Academic Year 2026-2027

Date written: September 2026

Date to be reviewed: June 2027

Written by Music Leader: Mrs. J. Strong

This is a summary of how our academy delivers music education to all our pupils across the following areas:

- Curriculum Music
- Extra-Curricular Music
- Musical Experiences.

In addition, it outlines what changes we are planning in future years. This document is provided to inform pupils, parents, and carers of the music provision our academy offers.

Curriculum Music

St. Bernadette's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy ensures that the teaching of music is given priority. Since the academic year 2023-24, we have been using 'Sing Up' for our academy music scheme. This has been developed in line with the National Curriculum for Music and the Model Music Curriculum over the past three academic years.

Each class has an allocated music slot in curriculum time. In Nursery, this is part of Expressive Arts and Design, and they also use resources and lessons from Sing Up. The Reception classes, and Years 1-6 have a Sing Up lesson each week. In addition, cross-curricular links are made where possible, in particular the use of singing in other lessons, especially Religious Education. Reception years have 30 minutes of Sing Up lessons. In Years 1-6, the children have a 45-minute music lesson, with additional time for singing and music in RE, other curriculum topics, collective worship and hymn practice.

Further details of how music is taught in school and the cycle of units for music are published on the Music subject webpage.

As part of these lessons, children will have the opportunity to play instruments. In Early Years, the children perform on untuned percussion; in Years 1 and 2 children develop using tuned percussion, in particular focussing on glockenspiel. Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 currently learn the recorder for a term within the two-year teaching cycle. They also further develop their skills on glockenspiels in special units composed by Sing Up.

Extra-Curricular Music

This section outlines 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 music is an important aspect of the curriculum, priority is given to increase opportunities for the development of music learning in our academy. This is enabled through a focus on developing singing in school through regular hymn practice, singing in assemblies and collective worships, and music clubs. The music clubs we currently have in school include two Academy Choirs: a KS1 Choir, for Years 1 and 2, and a KS2 Choir, for Years 3-6. Both choirs are run by the Music Leader throughout the whole academic year, and are well attended. The Music Making club, which has run for two years until July 2026, is not running this year, but there are opportunities for music learning in the Languages and Countries Club, where the children will learn songs from other countries.

On the Music Action Plan for this year, the Music Leader will be considering further extra-curricular provision for Early Years children. This could include after-school clubs run by external partners.

For the past two academic years, our pupils have had the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, taught by Lucy Cooper, an experienced teacher and musician. Pupils are given the choice of violin, piano, or guitar. This opportunity is available for pupils in Years 2-6. Currently, 12 pupils learn piano, 9 pupils learn guitar, and 5 learn the violin. Pupils have been enthusiastic in their learning during the year and are enjoying developing their skills and confidence. As of September 2026, all places for lessons have been filled.

Musical Experiences

This section considers all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts, and shows.

Singing and playing instruments are a priority in school. Regular, fortnightly hymn practice develops the children's confidence and enjoyment in singing. Children have further opportunities to sing regularly in Celebrations of the Word, assemblies, Mass, and class liturgies.

In addition, we have other performances that take place across the school year. Early in the Advent Term, the academy celebrates a Harvest Festival; for Christmas, we produce a Nativity Performance, alternating each year between Early Years/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Chaplaincy Team and the Music and RE Leaders produce and lead a Carol Service. The Academy Choir and Music Making Group perform carols at a local nursing home and for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

In addition, the Music Leader organises a Lent and a summer concert, where children are able to perform by singing or playing instruments, pieces they have learnt as part of music lessons. Last year, the Academy Choir and after-school Music Making Club performed, and pupils who learn instruments with Lucy Cooper were also able to perform in solo, duets or an ensemble. The RE Leader and Music Leader would also like to further use staff interest and skills in music, and involve children more in playing music in collective worship. The Music Leader will liaise with Lucy Cooper, the instrumental tutor, and Andrew Strong, the RE Leader in this focus. We would also like more opportunities for parents to watch their children perform instruments in school.

In March 2026, Daniel Fields, Assistant Headteacher at St. Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy, and also Musical Director at Scunthorpe Coop Choir led a singing workshop for Year 4 pupils, which was a wonderful experience. Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will have another opportunity for a singing workshop led by another Scunthorpe Coop Choir Leader this November.

The Music Leader has met with the Performing Arts Leader at St. Bede's, Natalie Beuzelin, to organise a joint music making afternoon. Pupils from St. Bernadette's and St. Bede's are rehearsing to perform together in November 2026.

In the future

The past academic year has seen continued development of our music curriculum, fine tuning learning objectives and outcomes. The Music Leader has also checked coverage of the recommended pieces from the Model Music Curriculum in our academy Sing Up scheme. Coverage of the musical skills of listening and appraising, performing, composing, and improvising has also been monitored throughout the year. Sing Up assessment and monitoring will continue to be a focus this year, as the Music Leader supports other staff teaching music.

The Music Leader has set the following priorities for music in the academic year 2026-2027 and subsequent years:

- Continue to develop the profile of music in the academy, including maximising opportunities for cross-curricular music – this includes singing and other musical activities in other lessons. Encourage staff to use Sing Up scheme songs for each curriculum subject.
- Continue to develop links with St. Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy.
- Develop further occasions where children can perform in school concerts, and provide further opportunities for children to help lead collective worship and singing.
- Develop further opportunities for parents to watch their children perform instruments, through informal and relaxed concerts to develop confidence.
- Partake in opportunities for children to perform in the wider community, through Music Hub-led events such as the Big Sing and also the Scunthorpe Music Festival.

Further information about music can be found on the Music subject page of our academy website.

Please contact the Music Leader, Mrs. J. Strong, if you have any questions regarding music in school.