

Music development plan summary: St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Houghton le Spring

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jayne Weatherall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Sunderland Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Music at St. Michael's Catholic Primary school is taught in all classes from Reception to Year 6. We aim to develop pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in music through a wide range of teaching styles. These include; actions and dance, whole class work, small group work and individual work. Staff work together to ensure music progression is evident throughout the school and pupils build on what they have been taught in previous years.

Our music curriculum allows:

- Pupils to develop their performance skills through learning to play tuned and untuned instruments, singing a variety of songs and rehearsing and performing with others.
- Pupils to develop their composing skills through creating musical patterns and exploring and organising sounds and learning to record these in a variety of ways.

- Pupils to learn to analyse and compare sounds, explore ideas and make improvements to their work, building on their appraising skills.
- Pupils to learn to listen with increased concentration to internalise and recall sounds. Teachers plan lessons following the Charanga music scheme, with a half-termly focus-based approach to support teachers in engaging all of our pupils during music lessons. These lessons include a variety of adult lead and child-initiated activities. Each unit of work has a musical focus, which allows pupils to progress throughout their primary school experience. Children with SEND are individually supported in class depending on their various requirements, for example: use of ear defenders when music lessons are louder than average, teacher's ability to differentiate their lessons and use planning to challenge all pupils depending on their ability.

We have taken into consideration the model music curriculum recommendations (2021) and ensure all pupils are taught 1 hour per week or equivalent and our Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity to be taught to play a musical instrument: the violin and/or guitar. At St. Michael's we understand the importance and joy music can bring to the young children we teach.

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.

At St. Michael's we offer music tuition. This is provided by Mrs Wise, a visiting teacher who provides violin tuition and is charged to parents. Mr Clappison, a visiting teacher, provides guitar tuition and is charged to parents. The music subject lead runs a choir after school club once a week for the majority of the academic year. This is for key stage 2 children for one evening per week for one hour. We regularly signpost families to the Sunderland Music Hub for opportunities within the local authority. They offer weekend music centres where beginners or more experienced young musicians can play free of charge as part of an ensemble.

The choir have opportunities to sing for the school and parish community; they have taken part in Christmas Carol singing for different groups within the Parish of St. Michael's.

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.

As a Catholic School, St. Michael's place a high emphasis on the joy of singing hymns and religious worship songs. Children take part in a singing assembly once a week with additional opportunities when children are preparing for Class Liturgies or Class Masses. All children in school take part in this. We enjoy an array of traditional hymns and modern songs which are taught and sang collectively during this time. During their time at St. Michael's children will learn and enjoy singing a vast range of religious worship songs.

Pupils at St. Michael's gain a lot of enjoyment and pride from singing for themselves and parents. Each class takes part in a curriculum assembly where children may perform through either singing or playing an instrument for parents and visitors. This can be as part of an assembly or a performance to another class. Pupils experience performing to a small audience and gain confidence and pride before performing to the whole school and/or parents and family members.

We have excellent links with the parish of St. Michael's enabling the children to participate fully through their musical contributions to the Mass. Each class takes part in either a Christmas Nativity or Carol concert which always includes a vast array of musical performance opportunities. This academic year Year 5 and 6 presented a Christmas Carol concert including numerous solo and duet parts which the children were excited to audition for. They produced a beautiful silhouette performance of the Nativity alongside solo and group singing on the altar in St. Michael's Church.

We take part in theatre trips where the children can appreciate the performance of others through acting, music and dance. Year 6 showcase their musical talents in an annual Leavers' Assembly for the whole school and parents.

Visits to The Emmaus Youth Village in Consett are available to children in Year 4 and Year 6. This provides unique opportunities for children to reflect, connect and grow in their faith through engaging activities including numerous music, dance and movement opportunities in a state-of-the-art auditorium.

In the future

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

- We plan to use this academic year 2025-2026 to give children the chance to experience more performance opportunities through playing their musical instrument for school/parent audiences.

- We plan to continue to grow pupil confidence in singing as part of a choir where children can enjoy performing to their peers and families to encourage them to appreciate the joy of music and performance.

Further information

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.

Sunderland Music Hub delivers, supports and champions music-making activity across the city. They aim to unlock musical potential and ensure young people have opportunities to progress regardless of their background.

<https://sunderlandmusichub.org.uk/>