

Music Policy
St Mary's Catholic Primary School



Reviewed: September 2026

Love, Listen and Learn

Mission Statement

St. Mary's school community follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, working together to develop the whole child, in a spiritual, moral, academic, physical, social and emotional way, within a caring and supportive environment.

Ethos

We recognise that there is a challenge in creating an enriching environment for all those involved at every level of school life. We take our lead and inspiration from Christ with regard to the Gospel values: the belief that all human beings are uniquely created and loved by God and worthy of respect. This challenge manifests itself in the way that we treat and value:

- Our relationships with each other and the wider community
- Our respect for one another
- Our welcome to and interest in all those who visit our school
- Discipline inspired by forgiveness, healing and reconciliation
- Our school environment

Through rising to this challenge, we aim to create an awareness of a sense of belonging to and being part of the life of St Mary's.

The Aims of our School

We will endeavour to create a Catholic Ethos in our school, which reflects the Gospel values, through the love, care and respect we show to each other, and to all who come to our school. We will teach the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.

Through the prayer and worship in school we will try to be a living community of people celebrating their love for God and one another.

We believe the quality of the curriculum, with Religious Education at its core, is of prime importance and will focus on the development of the whole child. We will at all times try to make provision for children with special needs, so that all members of our school community achieve their potential.

We will help the children to develop an awareness of and respect for other religious and cultural backgrounds, as we believe this to be an essential preparation for adult life.

We believe that good communication between governors, staff, parents and children is important for the wellbeing of our school, and we will work in partnership with the wider community especially the home and parish in developing each child's potential.

The Aims for Each Child at St Mary's Catholic Primary School

- ◆ Whilst at St. Mary's School I will learn about being a Christian. I will experience the beliefs, traditions and practices of the Catholic Faith.
- ◆ I will achieve as much as I possibly can in each area of the National Curriculum.
- ◆ I will know how to learn and enjoy learning, and will view work in a positive and conscientious manner.
- ◆ I will co-operate and communicate with others effectively, independently and in a group, and try to win and lose graciously.
- ◆ I will tolerate and respect the religious beliefs, views and values of others, understand the need for good behaviour and moderate my behaviour accordingly. I will respect the belongings and property of others.
- ◆ If I have a problem I know I can find someone who will discuss it with me.
- ◆ I will try to learn from my mistakes and accept there is always room for improvement.
- ◆ I will share a sense of responsibility for my school, parish, local community and the wider environment.

Introduction

Our aim at St. Mary's is to provide a music curriculum which will enable each child to reach their full potential in music; encourage children to enjoy singing, composing and performing; and provide them with the opportunity to perform in front of an audience both within and outside of school. Children learn to work both independently and as part of a group, ensuring that the skills of resilience and teamwork are promoted in this subject. They are enthused and engaged in the wide variety of music activities available to them. Opportunities to perform outside of school, within our local environment, ensure our children understand its significance and place within the wider world and that these experiences excite and inspire their thirst for knowledge and participation in this subject. Through participation in the range of musical experiences provided, we also aim to build children's confidence.

We believe that 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 and to appreciate different forms of music. As the 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; how to work with others to make music; and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them musical notation and how to begin to compose music

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Music at St. Mary's should also be seen as a vehicle for the building of children's self-esteem, confidence and self-discipline and the enhancement of life skills.

At St. Mary's School we use the Sing Up Music scheme of work which follows the New Music National Curriculum and supports the Intent, Implementation and Impact for the teaching and learning of music.

Teaching and learning style

At St. Mary's School we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. 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 and to 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 also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds.

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;
- providing resources of different complexity depending on the ability of the child.

Music Scheme of Work

St. Mary's School uses the Sing Up which is an online scheme of work for music. The scheme provides the foundation to provide a creative programme of high-quality classroom music activities and meets the requirements for the New National Curriculum for Music. It covers a broad and diverse range of repertoire, approaches, and musical traditions and supports a full-integrated approach to musical development, connecting the interrelated strands of sing, playing, improvising, composing, listening and appraising.

This incorporates three aspects of progress:

- increasing breadth and range of musical experiences;
- increasing challenge and difficulty in musical activities;
- increasing confidence, sensitivity and creativity in the children's music making.

Staffing

Pupils are taught music by the class teacher every fortnight.

Learning Resources

A range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments are available for use in music lessons and are stored in the small hall in 3 trolleys.

A portable CD player is available in each class room.

The Sing Up scheme of work provides a wide range of teaching resources including videos to deliver the lessons for each year group.

Spiritual development

In order to develop aesthetic awareness and an enjoyment of music, lessons are planned to ensure that pupils receive satisfying and exciting musical experiences.

Personal and social development

This is promoted through music activities. There is a special emphasis on sharing resources, in "taking turns", listening to each other's views and appreciating and evaluating class performances.

Inclusion

Through differentiated activities, all children will be able to participate in the music lessons.

Musical events

We believe that music enriches the lives of people, and so we wish to involve as many children as possible in musical activities. We have groups of children who perform in public on a number of occasions throughout the year, for example at the Christmas carol concert, at local nursing and care homes and at school concerts as well as any other opportunity which may arise. Parents are encouraged to attend musical performances where applicable.

St. Mary's School also have annual musical productions involving the Year 3 and Year 4 children.

Other events include recorder workshops for year 3 children and singing workshops for Year 5 children organised by the Enfield Music Service and we have visiting musicians giving demonstrations to promote specific musical instruments.

All pupils have the opportunity to take part in individual instrumental tuition outside of school provided by the Enfield Music Service.

Weekly Infant and Junior Hymn Practice

St. Mary's School have separate weekly Infant and Junior hymn practices. Pupils practice known hymns and learn new hymns and songs which are sung at Mass, Benediction, assembly and special occasions in the Church calendar. They may also sing hymns in RE lessons or in class worship.

Weekly Infant and Junior hymn practices will be taken by a separate music teacher

Assessment and record keeping

Assessment is incorporated within the lesson plans. The lesson objectives are embedded in the plan. The music leader will annotate lesson plans and whether objectives are met. Children's knowledge and understanding is assessed by questioning, listening and observation of performance in class as an ongoing process. Evidence may be as videos or photographs of group work and performances.

Assessment is an on-going process brought about by:

- Observation of children working
- Discussion with children before and after working

Information on a child's progress in music will be communicated to parents in the written report once yearly.

Equal Opportunities

Children should not be discriminated against in terms of gender and race. All children should have the opportunity to participate fully in classroom music lessons and activities. As part of the National Curriculum children will experience music from various countries and cultures.