Music development plan summary: Bishop Ellis Catholic Voluntary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	28.8.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	1.07.27
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Jackson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Andrew Monaghan
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

Each class teacher teaches musically discretely for one session per week (1 hour). This is taught by the class teacher as part of the music curriculum (utilising the Leicestershire Music Hub's Primary Scheme of Work resources which are fully informed by and match the ambition of the Model Music Curriculum) In Key Stage 2, pupils also have access to instrument tuition taught by a music specialist within our school. For Years 5 and 6 the instruments are brass. As of this academic year, we plan to introduce a recorder whole class ensemble to year 2, 3 and 4 children.

Pupils are supported with instrument continuation as part of the Catholic life and mission of the school – they are offered the opportunity to play guitar during whole school worship and this is rehearsed by an in-house music expert on an individual and ensemble basis.

In subsequent years, the coverage of the curriculum is such that all pupils will experience all 6 modules of the Leicestershire Primary Scheme of Work across a two-year cycle

(pulse, voice, pitch, rhythm, technology structure and form and 20th century music). We have an existing partnership with the Leicestershire Music Hub and currently hold a silver music mark for our commitment to offering and delivering the music curriculum.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

We have an ensemble choir for pupils in Years 4,5 and 6. We also have a Year 6 ensemble harmony group. Pupils wishing to further develop their proficiency in guitar can join guitar rehearsals and perform in front of the school. Music making is encouraged and supported through provision in the early years.

For continuation purposes, pupils are able to borrow instruments from school so they are able to practise the learning that has taken place in instrument lessons. In addition to this, pupils can take home their brass instrument to rehearse during the 12 week window in which they are having instrument tuition. We share details with pupils' parents regarding borrowing instruments from the Leicestershire Music Hub at a reduced loan cost.

We offer peripatetic music provision during the school day, which parents are given information for at the end of the academic year ready for the new year to begin. This year we have also introduced "Rocksteady" a nationally recognised programme. All children in school took part in a workshop with many then taking up the opportunity to continue with lessons. These are funded using pupil premium funding where appropriate. Parents liaise directly with the external music teachers but we have a showcase to the other pupils in the Summer term. At present, we share details for piano, bassoon and flute. Where pupils entitled to the pupil premium wish to take up tuition, they can liaise with the school office regarding a subsidy or support towards the cost through the pupil premium funding.

We have an active, committed school choir (Years 4, 5 and 6) which meet every week as well as a Y6 harmony group. We liaise with our local parish and support them with performing during fundraising and parish events. We also work alongside other schools within the St Thomas Aquinas CMAT to raise funds for a local charity for disabled young people (Menphys). In addition to this, the choir perform at in house events, masses and as outreach in our local community.

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.

Each year the pupils are invited to watch the performances of their peers, as well as a yearly visit from a pantomime company so they can experience quality live music. We also utilise partnerships with secondary schools within our trust, offering pupils in LKS2 to see performances of musicals put on by pupils in Y7-11. (Grease at English Martyrs) We have also selected some pupils who have shown interest and strength in music to visit local secondary schools for showcase events.

Each class within the school will perform in an ensemble at least one term per year (Reception and KS1 in Advent, LKS2 in Advent Y5 in Lent and Y6 in Pentecost), with the focus on voice training and high-quality performance. Surplus to this, we also offer showcase performances of the learning that has taken place in instrument tuition which we invite parents to. We allow time for rehearsal and individual practice within school time. Further to this, we have weekly hymn practice as a whole school where the children sing both in unison and in harmony as an ensemble.

Last year, we worked with the Leicester Music Festival to deliver workshops and an ensemble performance of Bob Chilcott's 'Jazz Mass.

Wherever possible, we subsidise the cost of performances and travel to music performances and events. Pupils entitled to the pupil premium are supported with the cost of trips and transport to free events.

We work alongside the Leicestershire Music Hub and engage with their networking events which also help to build relationships with other music education organisations such as Music Mark, Spark Arts for Children and Leicester Music Festival.

In the academic year 2024-25, we were also finalists in the Leicestershire Schools Choir of the Year competition, performing at De Montfort Hall in collaboration with the Leicestershire Music Hub, where we received commendable feedback from the judges. We hope to engage in opportunities such as this going forward.

In the future

In subsequent years we intend to continue our offer of high-quality music provision in line with those features contained within the National Plan for Music Education. We strive to further develop our Early Years music offer utilising CPD available within local music organisations and we wish to further offer showcase live performance both outside of and inside to school to develop cultural capital and encourage future engagement with music.

Further information (optional)

Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Leicestershire Music - Leicestershire Music (leicestershiremusichub.org)

LPME (Local Plan for Music Education) - Leicestershire Music (leicestershiremusichub.org)

The Spark Arts for Children – Sparking creativity and change

Leicester MusicFest | Competitions, Masterclasses, Concerts and more

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.