

Music development plan summary: St Mary's R.C. Primary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	14/09/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Chelsea Moore
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Bury Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School.

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.

At St. Mary's RC Primary School, music is taught using the Kapow Primary scheme of work, which fully meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Music (2014). The scheme is underpinned by the principles outlined in the non-statutory Ofsted Research Review: Music and aligns with HM Government's National Plan for Music Education, building upon the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (2021) to ensure high-quality music provision.

Music is allocated one lesson per week. Each unit consists of five lessons, and we have implemented Kapow Primary's Instrumental Scheme, a progressive programme made up of six units per academic year (totalling 30 lessons), supported by high-quality teacher guidance videos. Each unit explores music from a different part of the world and features a bespoke piece of music composed specifically for the scheme. Resources include sheet music, performance tracks and backing tracks.

Lessons are designed for tuned percussion instruments. These instruments are accessible for non-specialist teachers, effective for learning notation (as note names are displayed on the bars), and are widely available in primary schools. Furthermore, the Ofsted Music Review (2023) highlights that ‘shallow experiences’ involving too many instruments do not allow pupils sufficient time to develop technical proficiency or expressive playing. By focusing on one instrument, the Kapow Instrumental Scheme enables pupils to build secure technique and begin to play with musical expression.

Opportunities for ensemble playing and performance are embedded throughout the scheme, enabling pupils to perform together as a whole class and develop confidence in musicianship.

In addition to class music lessons, we are supported by a music specialist who teaches music in classes for one hour per week during different terms across the academic year. This further enriches our music provision, bringing specialist expertise and deepening pupils’ musical understanding and skills.

To further increase performance opportunities, we have partnered with Rocksteady Music School, the UK’s leading provider of in-school band lessons for primary-aged children. This provision runs alongside our existing music curriculum. Rocksteady offers an inclusive approach that promotes a sense of belonging through music-making, supporting children’s social skills, well-being and confidence through regular practice and performance. Pupils experience a live Rocksteady performance in school, after which they are invited to sign up, join a band and learn an instrument of their choice. Bands perform for the whole school and parents at various points throughout the year, further strengthening our culture of musical performance.

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. Mary’s RC Primary School, we aim to provide pupils with opportunities not only to learn about music during lesson time, but also to broaden their musical experiences through lessons and extracurricular activities beyond the school day.

Through our partnership with Bury Music Service, pupils have the opportunity to take part in instrumental tuition delivered by specialist music teachers. Lessons are offered on a one-to-one or small group basis. Currently, children in Key Stage 2 can access guitar, flute and recorder lessons, which take place outside of curriculum time and are funded by parents who choose for their child to participate.

In addition, Bury Music Service provides a free whole-class instrumental programme for both Year 3 classes. Pupils receive a 30-minute ukulele lesson each week. All

ukuleles are provided by the school, ensuring this opportunity is fully accessible to all children at no cost.

St. Mary's also offers a school choir, open to all pupils in Years 4 to 6. Choir rehearsals take place once a week for 45 minutes as a free after-school club. The choir benefits from a range of performance opportunities both within school and in the local community. We have developed a partnership with a local care home, where pupils have performed for residents, fostering strong community links. This year, the choir also hosted an evening performance for parents, during which pupils performed and provided refreshments, further enhancing their confidence and sense of achievement.

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.

Bury Music Service will continue to offer instrumental tuition for pupils learning instruments outside of curriculum time during this academic year. To celebrate and recognise pupils' musical achievements, we plan to provide opportunities for children to showcase their talents through a dedicated assembly.

Big Sing Assembly (linked to MFL – Languages Week):

This whole-school event provides each class with the opportunity to learn and perform a song from a different country, celebrating music through language and culture. Pupils spend time learning a song in a new language before performing to the rest of the school, promoting cultural awareness and cross-curricular links with modern foreign languages.

A weekly hymn practice takes place for all pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2, ensuring regular opportunities for singing together as a school community. Music also plays an important role in all assemblies, where pupils listen to a wide range of music and participate in collective singing.

The school choir will continue to strengthen its partnership with Rose Court Care Home by visiting regularly to perform for residents, supporting community engagement and providing meaningful performance experiences for pupils.

In addition, Rocksteady Music School continues to work with the school as an external provider, offering pupils the opportunity to join a band. Children take part in regular weekly rehearsals during school time and are given multiple opportunities throughout the year to perform for both parents and the wider school community.

In the future

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

- At St. Mary's RC Primary School, we are continuing to embed and refine the implementation of our music curriculum through the Kapow Primary scheme. Our focus for the 2024–2025 academic year is to ensure consistency, quality and progression in music teaching across the school, while strengthening opportunities for performance, singing and parental engagement.
- **Key Development Priorities:**
 - To continue to ensure that Kapow Primary is used consistently and effectively by all staff to deliver and assess high-quality music lessons.
 - To further develop staff confidence and subject knowledge through appropriate and relevant CPD, ensuring the music curriculum is delivered with increasing depth and musical understanding.
 - To strengthen opportunities for music across the whole school, including extracurricular activities and learning beyond lesson time.
 - To increase opportunities for pupils to perform and sing regularly, both as individuals and as part of whole-class and whole-school ensembles.
 - To improve parental engagement in music learning by beginning to upload music lessons and learning outcomes to Seesaw, allowing parents to see, support and celebrate their children's musical development.
- **Actions to Achieve These Priorities:**
 - Monitoring the implementation of Kapow Primary through pupil voice, staff voice and lesson observations.
 - Conducting regular school instrument audits to ensure resources are accessible and fit for purpose.
 - Providing targeted CPD for the music subject leader and wider staff, informed by monitoring and staff needs.
 - Planning termly performance and singing opportunities, including whole-school singing, class performances and instrumental showcases.
 - Using Seesaw to share music learning, performances and progress with parents, strengthening home–school links.
 - Looking ahead, we aim to further embed music as a central part of school life, with regular, planned opportunities for pupils to sing, perform and share their musical achievements throughout the year.

Useful Links:

Bury Music Service (provide in school lessons out of lesson time for various instruments)
<https://burymusic.co.uk/>

[Home - Rocksteady Music School](#)