Music development plan summary: Our Lady of the Rosary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	LGale
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	T McNicholas/Amanda McCarthy
Name of local music hub	Surrey
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Our school curriculum for music can be found on our music page - https://olrs.co.uk/Music/

This is informed by the model music curriculum.

Music is taught weekly for one hour in every class from Year 1 to Year 6. Our curriculum follows the Model Music Curriculum and is delivered through carefully sequenced units from Surrey Arts Interactive, supported by our whole-school Progression of Skills document. The curriculum ensures that all children develop secure knowledge and skills across the key strands of singing, playing, improvising, composing, listening and appraising.

Across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, children learn to use musical vocabulary with increasing accuracy, understand musical notation, and experience a wide range of styles and genres, from classical repertoire to world music and modern styles including rap and digital music creation. Children regularly learn through movement, body percussion and call-and-response activities, supporting fluency and confidence.

All classes participate in Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching, which progresses systematically from Year 1 to Year 6. A full breakdown of instruments and focus areas for each year group is set out in our Music Long Term Plan.

Children also take part in high-quality national music partnerships which broaden cultural experience and deepen musical understanding. These include:

English National Opera 'Finish This…' composition project
Year 3: introduction to structured composition and melodic development
Year 5: advanced composition, musical motifs and collaborative creation

Royal Opera House projects (The Magic Flute, Hansel and Gretel, Carmen), enriching learning through narrative, character, and musical themes.

Our curriculum builds progressively:

- Key Stage 1 focuses on steady beat, simple pitch patterns, vocal confidence, instrumental exploration, and responding to music.
- Lower Key Stage 2 develops notation, ensemble skills, rounds, harmony, and structured composition (including the ENO project in Year 3).
- Upper Key Stage 2 extends into part-singing, more complex notation, improvisation, digital composition, and analysis of musical styles (including ENO's Year 5 composition project).

We ensure that the curriculum is fully accessible to pupils with SEND, with clear expectations for practical engagement, visual support, explicit vocabulary teaching, and opportunities for success through repetition, modelling and varied entry points.

Assessment takes place through observation of performances, practical tasks, recordings, verbal responses and written work that reflects musical vocabulary and understanding.

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.

Co-curricular music provides pupils with a wide range of opportunities to extend their musical experience beyond the classroom. These activities support progression in performance, ensemble skills, confidence and musical enjoyment for all pupils.

Our school choir, open to pupils in Years 3 to 6, is part of the Westminster Singing Programme. The choir rehearses weekly and develops skills in part-singing, vocal control and ensemble performance. Members take part in events throughout the year, including performing in the Westminster Cathedral Carol Service, which brings together pupils from across the programme in a large-scale celebration of choral music.

We also run a smaller singing group, which provides an additional opportunity for pupils who enjoy performing. This group prepares repertoire for the Spelthorne Singing Festival, enabling children to experience singing as part of a wider community and to develop confidence on a larger stage.

Pupils have further opportunities to learn an instrument through individual or small-group tuition, including on-site piano lessons. To ensure equity of access, the school provides funded instrumental tuition for disadvantaged pupils, enabling all children to participate in and benefit from sustained musical learning. As children gain confidence, they are encouraged to share their learning informally in class and through performance opportunities across the school year.

Our ensemble group supports whole school worship, providing a platform for pupils to develop ensemble playing, follow conducting cues, and contribute to community events within the school. This group offers meaningful ensemble experience for instrumentalists and supports pupils who are developing musical leadership skills.

Across the year, children can engage in a broad range of performance opportunities, including:

- Singing in assemblies
- Performing in seasonal celebrations and school events
- Contributing to concerts, class performances and sharing opportunities
- Developing musical confidence through informal performance moments in class

Through this breadth of co-curricular provision, pupils are supported to grow as confident, expressive musicians. Participation is accessible to all, including pupils with SEND, with staff ensuring appropriate adaptations so that every child can play an active role in musical life at Our Lady of the Rosary.

Part C: Musical Events

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.

Musical events are a vibrant part of life at Our Lady of the Rosary. They celebrate pupils' achievements, build confidence and offer rich opportunities for children to perform to a range of audiences. Through these experiences, pupils come to understand music as a shared, expressive and joyful part of school life.

All pupils take part in weekly hymn practice, where they learn to sing as a whole-school community and develop confidence across a broad repertoire. Singing also forms part of whole school worship, giving children regular opportunities to contribute musically in a familiar and supportive setting.

Across the year, pupils participate in a varied and exciting set of musical events, including:

Whole-school and Community Performances

- Christmas Nativity (Nursery–Year 2), performed to families and the wider school community.
- Christmas Carol Service (Years 3–6), held in Our Lady of the Rosary Church, featuring part-singing, instrumental elements and class contributions.
- Harvest Celebrations, supported by pupils in younger year groups.
- Seasonal celebrations and community gatherings, often featuring singing or instrumental work.

Major Productions

- Year 5 Easter Passion Play, performed to an adult audience of parents, carers and family members.
- Year 6 Leavers' Production, performed to families as a highlight of pupils' final year.

These productions include ensemble and solo singing, spoken roles, and opportunities for optional instrumental accompaniment.

Choir and Singing Group Performances

Pupils who take part in co-curricular singing enjoy significant additional opportunities, including:

- Participation in a diocese-wide cross-school performance through the Westminster Singing Programme, giving choir members the chance to sing alongside pupils from across the diocese in a large-scale, high-quality event.
- Taking part in the Spelthorne Singing Festival as part of our smaller singing group, contributing to a wider community performance.

Liturgy Band

The Liturgy Band contributes to music for Mass both in school and in the church, providing pupils with meaningful ensemble experience and the opportunity to perform live in front of the school community and parish.

Annual Talent Showcase

Our whole-school talent show provides a celebratory platform for pupils to share their musical interests and abilities. Children perform solo pieces, duets, ensemble songs or instrumental works, creating an uplifting and encouraging atmosphere that recognises creativity across the school.

Curriculum-linked Performances and Class Sharing

Throughout the year, pupils share musical outcomes from their curriculum learning. This includes WCET instrumental work, rhythm pieces, class compositions and singing performances, helping children build confidence and pride in their progress.

Taken together, these events ensure that every child experiences the enjoyment of performing, whether in a large ensemble, a class group or as an individual. Pupils with SEND are supported throughout, ensuring that musical participation remains accessible and meaningful for all.

In the future

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

Over the next three years, we aim to further develop the breadth and depth of our music provision so that all pupils experience a rich, progressive and ambitious musical education. Our priorities focus on strengthening instrumental opportunities, widening participation and ensuring that every child, including those who are disadvantaged or have SEND, is supported to achieve highly.

We plan to continue the phased introduction of new instruments, enabling pupils to experience a broader range of musical techniques and ensemble skills. This builds on our existing Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching and ensures that children encounter a variety of instrument families across their primary years.

We will provide pupils with even more opportunities to experience live music, including visiting workshops, cross-school projects and partnerships with professional organisations. These experiences will strengthen pupils' cultural capital and inspire aspiration, particularly for those who may not otherwise access live musical performance.

As part of our ongoing curriculum development, we will continue to refine our Progression of Skills so learning remains sequenced, coherent and increasingly demanding from Year 1 to Year 6. This includes strengthening expectations for musical vocabulary, notation, improvisation and composition so that pupils develop the confidence and fluency needed for more advanced musical work.

We aim to continue to increase participation in performance-based projects, both within school and beyond, ensuring that pupils have frequent opportunities to take part in ensemble work, represent the school and perform to a range of audiences. We will continue to monitor engagement carefully so that disadvantaged pupils are fully included in these opportunities and supported to continue to participate confidently.

To support inclusion and aspiration, we will continue to embed teaching approaches that enable pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils to access musical learning in meaningful ways. This includes ensuring practical pathways into participation, scaffolded challenge and targeted encouragement so that all pupils can succeed and develop as confident young musicians.

Through these plans, we aim to ensure that music continues to grow as a dynamic and celebrated part of life at Our Lady of the Rosary, providing all pupils with the knowledge, skills and inspiration to achieve their musical potential.