SAINT NORBERT'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Mission Statement: To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus.

# MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

As a Rights Respecting School, we acknowledge our role as 'duty bearers' in promoting and protecting children's rights.




**Introduction**

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.

**1. Vision and Intent**

At Saint Norbert's, we believe that every child should experience the joy of music, make musical progress and discover their own creative gifts. Music enriches individual lives and strengthens our school, parish and wider community. In keeping with our mission, 'To live, love and learn in the footprints of Jesus', we regard music as an inclusive and important part of a broad, ambitious education, not a privilege reserved for a few.

- Our ambition is for every pupil to sing, listen, perform, improvise and compose with growing confidence, developing secure musical knowledge and practical skills.
- Children encounter a rich repertoire, including Western classical music, popular music, music from different cultures and traditions, and sacred music used in our Catholic worship.
- Through a carefully sequenced curriculum, pupils develop their understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch, notation, musical expression and the disciplines of ensemble performance.
- We value both the creativity of making music together and the skills needed to appreciate, discuss and evaluate what we hear.

We aim to nurture a lifelong love of music and provide opportunities for every child, including those facing barriers to participation, to contribute to the musical life of the school.

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**2. Part A: Curriculum Music**

The Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT Music Service now leads the delivery of weekly curriculum music lessons in Key Stages 1 and 2 through specialist teachers. Saint Norbert's retains responsibility for ensuring that this provision meets the needs of our pupils, reflects our school's curriculum ambitions and is appropriately monitored and evaluated.
The curriculum is intended to build musical knowledge and technique cumulatively, so that pupils revisit and secure previous learning as they progress.

Pupils encounter significant composers, performers and musical works from different periods and traditions. This breadth of listening supports their appreciation of music and inspires their own performance and composition. Specialist teaching develops singing, listening, musicianship, improvisation, composition, instrumental performance and understanding of notation.
Class teachers work alongside the specialist teachers, supporting pupils, making appropriate adaptations and developing their own subject knowledge through this partnership.

The Trust-led curriculum draws upon the National Curriculum and the principles of the Model Music Curriculum (2021). Progression includes singing; listening and appraising; pulse, rhythm and pitch; improvisation and composition; playing instruments; reading and writing notation; and performance.
Learning is sequenced to enable pupils to retrieve prior knowledge, practise musical techniques and apply them with increasing independence.
Pupils are encouraged to use accurate musical vocabulary, evaluate their work and take pride in making music together.

Assessment is informed by pupils' responses, rehearsal, practical performance and specialist teachers' evaluation. The school works with the Music Service to agree how progression and assessment information are shared and used to plan next steps.

<u>Timetable for Music</u>
In the Early Years, music is experienced through adult-led activity, songs, rhymes, movement, exploration and continuous provision.
In Key Stages 1 and 2, specialist teachers from Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service deliver timetabled music lessons each week, supported by class staff.
Across the school, music is also encountered through collective worship, liturgy, school performances and other opportunities to sing and listen.

<u>How are children taught music at our school?</u>
In the Early Years, EYFS staff incorporate music into daily provision in a range of ways for example, using music to encourage tidy up time routines. Singing and music-making opportunities are used frequently to embed learning, develop musical awareness and to demonstrate how music can be used to express feelings. Rhyme, rhythm and pulse are used within the learning of phonics, handwriting and mathematics. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes and develop skills for performing together. Our approach supports the children to begin their journey of learning the interrelated dimensions of music, before moving on to the Primary Curriculum.

In Key Stage 1, the children build on the skills taught throughout the early years to secure strong musical foundations. The children learn to use their voices to sing expressively – this might be individually, within a group or whole class. They continue to develop an awareness of the different interrelated dimensions of music through listening to a range of live and recorded music from a wide range of cultures, time periods and traditions. They explore and experience playing both tuned and untuned instruments, which will include contributing to group and class compositions. The curriculum includes a strong focus on learning musical vocabulary and significant opportunities to master rhythm and pulse.

In Key Stage 2, pupils deepen their musicianship through increasingly demanding singing, listening, ensemble playing, improvisation and composition. They develop their understanding of musical notation and learn to perform with greater accuracy, expression and independence. The specific instruments taught in each year group are determined through the Music Service's planned sequence and available provision.

The Headteacher and school staff liaise with the Trust's specialist teachers to review curriculum coverage, progression, inclusion and the quality of pupils' musical experiences.

Music is for everyone. Specialist and class teachers adapt tasks, instruments, instructions and modes of participation so that pupils with SEND and other additional needs can participate meaningfully and achieve ambitious outcomes. Open-ended tasks, additional modelling, repetition, small-group support and appropriate challenge help children develop from their individual starting points.

Inclusion

Music has a rare and unique ability to bring people together; music making can make a whole class, school and community feel connected to others and part of something bigger. The school ensures and celebrates the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities leading to improved access and greater choice for all pupils to realise their creative potential.

All children, whatever their ability, learn music in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children. Teachers provide learning opportunities matched to the needs of children with learning difficulties, and our work in music takes into account the targets set for individual children in their Provision Maps.

High expectations are set for every pupil, whatever their prior attainment. Teachers use appropriate assessment to set targets which are ambitious. Potential areas of difficulty are identified and addressed at the outset. Lessons are be planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement.

Those children with a particular interest or aptitude in music can be given the opportunity to extend their education in a variety of ways, for example, taking part in instrumental performances in assemblies. Lessons are differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils and Quality First Teaching Strategies are in place.

Pupils experiencing difficulties can are given extra encouragement by working in a small group with the teacher or teaching assistant, have the task modified or work alongside a more musically able child.

**2. Part B: Co-curricular Music**

Instrumental tuition and further opportunities

We currently offer guitar lessons with a specialised teacher who comes into school every week. The children are typically taught in small groups. For this tuition, families pay for the lessons which cost £39.50 each term. Some families have the option to have their child's lesson subsidised (the school pay £3 towards each lesson). If we are oversubscribed, we offer a waiting list. The children are taught how to hold the guitar, the names of each string and they also learn how to play motifs/riffs on the guitar. When the children become confident with their skills, they then move onto playing chords. If confident, the children will perform their skills at social events for the school.

Choir and vocal ensemble

As a school we pride ourselves on singing, which forms an integral part of the Catholic life of our school in addition to the planned Music curriculum and other experiences. There are also opportunities for community performance, such as in local churches or the local residential home.

School performances

Our children have regular opportunities to perform for families and the community, including Harvest celebrations, Christmas productions and other seasonal events. These experiences build confidence, teamwork, expression and a sense of belonging.

Music also enriches class celebrations of the word, whole-school worship and parish links. Pupils may contribute through singing, instrumental performance and the thoughtful selection of music appropriate to the liturgical occasion.

**2. Part C: Musical Experiences**

Musical experiences are woven through the life of Saint Norbert's: whole-school and class worship, Masses, Harvest celebrations, Christmas performances, opportunities to sing for families, the parish and local community. We aim for every pupil to experience both the pleasure of performing and the inspiration of listening to others.

Where possible, pupils hear live music and take part in school or community events. Activities and any charges are always considered carefully to avoid excluding children on financial grounds.

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**3. Priorities for Further Development**

- Continuing to work with the Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service to ensure that the Music Curriculum continues to meet the needs of our mixed-age classes.
- Further strengthening opportunities for pupils to encounter live music, perform in ensembles and learn about composers, genres and musical traditions beyond their immediate experience.
- Continuing to gather pupil voice and review participation, including that of pupils with SEND and those facing financial barriers, so that future opportunities remain equitable and responsive.
- Continuing to celebrate music as part of our Catholic identity, developing singing and instrumental contributions to Masses, liturgies, school productions and community occasions. Review these priorities annually with the Music Service.

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**4. Further Information**

For further information about additional musical opportunities, families may contact the school or explore local music education services:
https://www.northlincs.gov.uk/tourism-museums-the-arts/north-lincolnshire-music-service/
https://servicesforeducation.org.uk/Page/6543