

# Music development plan summary: St. Hugh's Catholic Primary Voluntary Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr D.Ballard
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service <a href="https://lincsmusicservice.org/">https://lincsmusicservice.org/</a>
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Additional music partnerships with the music departments at Bishop Grosseteste University & Lincoln University, Lincoln Cathedral and the KYRA Schools' Alliance to allow music collaborations when possible.

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 information is about what we teach in lesson time and how much time is spent teaching music.

Our school curriculum for music can be found [here](#).

Our music curriculum adaptations document, which explains how we support pupils with special educational needs (SEND) as well as increasing access for disabled pupils can be found [here](#).

Music is defined by the National Curriculum (2014) as follows:

*'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with*

*music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon'*

Relating to the power of music, the Model Music Curriculum (2021) states:

*'Music is all around us. It is the soundtrack to our lives. Music connects us through people and places in our ever-changing world. It is creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. In our schools, music can bring communities together through the shared endeavour of whole-school singing, ensemble playing, experimenting with the creative process and, through the love of listening to friends and fellow pupils, performing. The sheer joy of music making can feed the soul of a school community, enriching each student while strengthening the shared bonds of support and trust which make a great school'*

At St. Hugh's, our music curriculum is designed to embody these key principles, ensuring that children are given opportunities to create, collaborate with others and celebrate their music in a supportive and enriching musical environment enabling them to experience a joy and love of music.

Our music curriculum is based on the [Music Express Schemes of Work](#) with children in KS1 and KS2 undertaking selected units of work from this scheme on a 2-year cycle (A+B). Since we have mixed year classes, this method ensures that all children in the school, regardless of the class they are in, will be taught the same skills in music as they progress through the school. Beyond this element of our core music curriculum delivery, children also have the opportunity to practice specific skills in singing (as part of a weekly singing assembly) and listening skills (as part of a weekly 15 minute music listening activity).

Our curriculum is informed by the [Model Music Curriculum](#) (March 2021), which provides a basis for our weekly listening activities (suggested listening pieces are provided for each year group) and supports the Music Express Schemes of work (<https://collins.co.uk/pages/primary-primary-music-music-express-model-music-curriculum>), as well drawing on the advice as set out in the [National Plan for Music Education](#).

At St. Hugh's, we aim to provide at least 1 hour of curriculum music per week (or an equivalent over a longer period). This is completed through classwork covered through our Music express schemes of work (organised on a two-year cycle for our mixed classes), weekly listening activities and singing skills covered both in classroom lessons and singing assemblies.

An overview of this time is shown on the next page:

# MUSIC CURRICULUM AT ST. HUGH'S

## 30 minutes\*

### MUSIC EXPRESS CURRICULUM

Children will learn a range of musical skills through selected units of work from the Music Express Scheme taught over a two-year cycle.

\* Or equivalent time over a longer period eg. 1 hour every two weeks OR termly blocks of work rotated with other subjects.



## 15 minutes

### SINGING ASSEMBLY

Children will learn singing skills collectively each week as part of singing assemblies. This will include learning of hymns and songs, vocal technique/voice control and round singing.

## 15 minutes

### LISTENING ACTIVITY

Children will experience a range of genres of music over the school year through a weekly opportunity to listen to and reflect on a piece of music.

**CHILDREN WILL HAVE AT LEAST 1 HOUR OF CURRICULUM MUSIC EACH WEEK\***

At St. Hugh's, we also aim to give children the opportunity to play a range of instruments during lesson time through whole-class ensemble teaching. This allows children to build their ensemble skills in instrumental playing alongside others, giving them key skills to empower their musical futures where they could go on to join a choir, orchestra, band or other ensemble.

Our current provision for whole class instrumental tuition allows children to experience a range of instruments set out as follows:

CLASS	Whole Class Instrumental Provision
FS / Year 1	Hand bells / Claves
Year 1 / Year 2	Hand bells / Claves
Year 2	Recorders
Year 3	Ukulele (LMS)
Year 3 / Year 4	Djembe Drumming & Glockenspiel
Year 4	Taiko Drumming (Year A) (LMS) Samba Drumming (Year B) (LMS)
Year 5	Taiko Drumming (Year A) (LMS) Samba Drumming (Year B) (LMS)
Year 5 / Year 6	Djembe Drumming & Glockenspiel
Year 6	Djembe Drumming & Glockenspiel

At St. Hugh's we also have a strong partnership with our local music education hub, the [Lincolnshire Music Service](#). This partnership supports the school in parts of our whole

class instrumental delivery (as outlined above – demarked LMS), gives provision of individual instrumental lessons across a range of instruments (see Part B Extra-curricular music – below), provides professional development opportunities, gives access to curriculum support resources and also provides [Music Mark](#) accreditation.

We also have links to the Music Departments at both Lincoln University and Bishop Grosseteste University as well as the KYRA Schools' Alliance which allow us to provide additional musical opportunities (beyond the core curriculum) for our students periodically, such as participation in music festivals, showcases and concerts.

## **Part B: Extra-curricular music**

This information 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.

Our school offers instrumental tuition for pupils, provided by our partnership with the Lincolnshire Music Service. Parents are able to book and pay for one-to-one or small-group tuition directly through the Music Service via their online portal. The instruments currently offered are: violin, cello, clarinet, flute, saxophone, French horn, trumpet, piano, voice, guitar and ukulele. Children will have access to relevant grade examinations in their instruments subject to progress within lessons with their Music Service tutor. The school can view tuition information for children taking part in these lessons via the SpeedAdmin online portal. Parents of children eligible for Pupil Premium and/or looked after children are also able to access a subsidised rate for lessons as part of the Music Service application process. Instruments can be loaned from the Music Service where required. The school has a music room where children are able to rehearse their instruments individually or practice in small groups if they so wish.

In school there are regular ensemble groups which children can choose to take part in. These groups are currently: an Infant Choir for children in Foundation Stage/KS1 (which runs during a lunch time), a Junior Choir for children in KS2 (which runs after school on Wednesdays) and a Samba Drumming ensemble for children in Y5&Y6 (which runs during Thursday lunch times). These groups are currently provided free of charge for all children taking part. Due to high uptake numbers for Junior Choir and the Samba Drumming group, the school does select children to take part in these groups. The current number of places available for Junior Choir are for approximately 50 children and for the Samba Drumming ensemble approximately 15 children.

The school is planning to introduce a Music Leaders programme to allow children with an interest in music to volunteer to support additional musical activities for other children during selected lunch times (for example singing nursery rhymes with some younger children, doing some simple vocal exercises with a small group of children). The intention

of this programme is to allow children to develop their music leadership skills through the support others.

Beyond the school, there are also further musical opportunities available to children. The Lincolnshire Music Service provides access to county groups, including those which may allow instrumentalists access to larger group orchestral opportunities. Further details of these groups can be found by clicking [here](#).

Our school's link with the Lincoln Music service also periodically offers further special musical opportunities which the school aim to take part in where possible. This link has, for example, provided opportunity for our Junior Choir members to perform at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Music for Youth Proms and class groups along with our drumming ensemble to take part in a Samba Drumming World Record attempt!

In addition, the school has a link to the Lincoln Cathedral choristers programme and every year children from Year 3 and above are given details of auditions and experiences to sing with the Lincoln Cathedral Choir. This often includes a visit and performance from a few members of the Cathedral Choir as part of an assembly. Further details about how to become a chorister at the Cathedral can be found by clicking [here](#).

As part of our connections with Lincoln University and Bishop Grosseteste University we also periodically get additional opportunities for our musicians to take part in further musical experiences. For example, in May 2025, our Junior Choir have been asked to work with Lincoln University and the Lincoln Choral Society to perform works by Cecelia McDowall and Bob Chilcott with their combined choir and orchestra in Lincoln Cathedral.

The school also aims to provide regular additional extra-curricular experiences for the children taking part in our choirs and drumming ensemble to further support their musical development. These performances during the year include the Christmas Fayre, the Age UK Christmas charity concert, the Lincoln Music Festival and the KYRA schools' concert. The children also have opportunities to perform for the school and will also often support the provision of music for Masses or liturgies as part of our Catholic worship.

All children in the school will have also opportunities to sing hymns regularly as part of Masses, liturgies and celebrations of the word beyond the Curriculum.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, taking part in performances, concerts and shows, and music as part of our Catholic liturgy.

During the school year, all children will take part in weekly singing assemblies. This gives all children a regular, dedicated time during the week to practice singing skills (thinking about use of voice, vocal range, breathing etc.), learn a range of songs

(including rounds, call/response, with linked actions, clapping to the beat, different styles of music), learn some musical terminology (for example forte, piano, legato, staccato, crescendo, diminuendo) and learn hymns in preparation for school Masses and Celebration of the Word. At the end of each singing assembly, children also have the opportunity to play a piece of music on an instrument that they are learning if they wish to. This allows children to share what they have been practicing in front of an audience, helping to improve their confidence in playing in front of others.

As a Catholic school, music is also an important part of our Catholicity that enhances our liturgy and worship. Children will regularly have the opportunity to sing hymns as part of our school Masses as well as part of their 'Celebration of the Word' in classrooms and assemblies. During planning for Celebration of the Word, children will also be able to choose suitable music to support their classes' reflection time, creating a prayerful and contemplative atmosphere. In addition, at selected times during the year, children will also encounter prayerful and meditative music as part of Lectio Divina, Visio Divina and Eucharistic Adoration. Children also have the opportunity to take part in the Lincoln Catholic schools' joint Advent Service which takes part annually in the run up to Christmas.

At St. Hugh's we give all children an opportunity to perform in a musical production during the school year. This allows children opportunities to improve their performance skills, enhancing many aspects of their music development as they move through the school such as singing in a larger group in front of others, developing sensitivity to performance (eg. Should this part be louder/quieter), learning lyrics, the chance to sing solos/in small groups, singing in parts or round and learning to project their voices. Currently, our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 perform our Christmas Nativity, our Year 3 and Year 4 children perform an Easter Play and our Year 5 and Year 6 children perform a Summer Term musical.

Children in our school will also be able to enjoy other musical performances during the year which include a Ukulele concert (following the Year 3 whole class instrumental lessons), a Musical Theatre Production (where children are invited to learn the songs and join in as well as some solo opportunities), choir performances from our Junior and Infant choirs, drumming performances from both our school Samba group as well as from our Year 4 and Year 5 classes as part of their Drumming workshop from [Louder than Life](#), instrumental demonstrations from our Lincolnshire Music Service tutors and a visit from the Lincoln Cathedral Chorists.

We also aim to provide additional musical experiences to our children during the school year when they become available. This is made possible by our links with the Lincolnshire Music Service, Lincoln University and Bishop Grosseteste University who will periodically offer additional performances, concerts or workshops as well as opportunities for live music in school (eg. instrument demonstrations)



As mentioned in Part B of this summary, we also aim to give our choirs and drumming group further musical experience opportunities including performance opportunities at concerts such as the Age UK Christmas charity concert, the Lincoln Music Festival and the KYRA schools' concert (see above).

Where there are cost implications for any of the above, we aim to allow all children to take part irrespective of financial background. Activities are therefore supported through subsidy (for example for pupil premium eligible children) or paid for in full by the school (for example for the KYRA schools' concert in order to allow all choir members and drummers to take part.)

## **In the future**

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

Our school is proud of its musical provision and we have provided a range of educational opportunities and experiences for our children. Similarly we have achieved great success in the Lincoln Music and Drama festival for many years.

Looking forward to the future, we wish to continue and build on our strong musical heritage, maintaining links with our partners as well as looking for further opportunities both in and out of school.

In the next year we intend to:

- Introduce a Music Leaders programme to allow children with an interest in music to volunteer to support additional musical activities for other children.
- Maintain our termly school performances to ensure that all children in the school get the chance to perform each year.
- Allow children to receive one hour of music provision per week (or equivalent termly), which will include singing skills and listening activities.
- Continue to strengthen the links between our partners and other schools to ensure regular additional musical experiences and opportunities for our children.
- Increase the overall uptake of individual instrumental tuition.
- Find further opportunities for musical performances in the school, showcasing instruments for the children (eg. Lincolnshire music service tutors demonstrating instruments in assembly, Lincoln University music students performing as part of school outreach projects.)

## Further information

Our local music hub, the [Lincolnshire Music Service](#) has a variety of musical opportunities that they make available to children each year.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.