

Music development plan summary: St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Pelaw

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	K. Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	M. Robinson
Name of local music hub	Gateshead & South Tyneside Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Gateshead Music Service

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 for each year group is published online on our [school website](#). It has been created using the [Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#) for children in Nursery and Reception Class, and the [National curriculum in England: music programmes of study](#) for children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Our curriculum has been planned to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum using resources from the online programme for music called Charanga and is supplemented with resources being developed by Gateshead Music Service.

Curriculum music is taught each week by classroom teachers. All children (including those with SEND) have the opportunity to learn to sing or play an instrument during curriculum lesson time. For example, all children sing together through focussed vocal activities and by developing particular skills as they learn a key song for their topic. Children also learn to play a musical instrument, such as the glockenspiel, in Year 3

and Year 4. Music lessons are timetabled weekly and are 15-30 minutes for EY, 30 minutes for KS1 pupils and 45 minutes for KS2 pupils.

Part B: Extra-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.

In partnership with [Gateshead Music Service](#) KS2 children can access instrumental tuition as a whole class with a specialist tutor.

The whole school gathers for a weekly half-an-hour hymn practice and non-specialist school staff offer a free after-school choir club. Local performance opportunities include carol singing in the local community and the Spring Sing at The Sage, Gateshead.

Pupils are encouraged to share their musical talents in school by playing the piano, for example, during assembly. Some of our children are self-taught and have developed their piano skills using YouTube and can access the hall to practice individually or in groups.

Through various local providers such as Gateshead Music Service or [The Glasshouse](#) children can make progress in music outside of school curriculum time by hiring instruments and taking part in after-school or Saturday morning ensembles.

Part C: Musical events and 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.

Children's musical experiences at St Alban's School include singing hymns and songs every week in Collective Worship (Celebration of the Word). This is through a mixture of unaccompanied singing and singing using a backing track. Children in nursery visit Pelaw Library regularly to listen to stories and take part in Rhyme Time, singing songs and joining in chants. Nativity plays are rehearsed and performed every Christmas by Reception class and by Year 1/2. These are full of songs and are performed to the whole school community, including all children as well as parents and carers. At the end of Christmas and summer terms, children are invited to perform in a celebratory music concert, and Y6 rehearse and perform a summer musical. As part of our transition work to our feeder secondary school, children in Year 5 take part in a Singing Day led by the music department of the secondary school. They join with children from other Y5 classes in the cluster of schools and close the day with a performance for parents and carers.

Visiting musicians perform in school to give the children experience of good quality musical performances. For example, M&M Productions performed their musical version of Cinderella in our school hall and Gateshead Music Service workshop team provide themed workshops led by their specialist musicians.

Where possible, children are taken to live concerts in the local area. For example, Year 3 children went to see The Coldstream Guards in Newcastle Cathedral. Costs are kept to a minimum but parents may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of travel or tickets.

In the future

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

For the children in our school, we are reviewing our music curriculum for 2024-25 and working with Gateshead Music Service to provide specialist tuition. This will involve a specialist music teacher working alongside classroom teachers to provide high-quality teaching and learning experiences, including instrumental tuition. Classroom instruments will include ocarina, glockenspiel, ukulele and recorder.

We will continue to use Charanga to support non-specialists in the delivery of curriculum music and are reviewing new resources for EY, Year 1 and Year 2. These are provided by Gateshead Music Service and will also include Key Stage 2 by next year.

Making the most of opportunities in the local area is a key priority for us to enrich the musical experiences of our students. Getting involved in carol singing and The Spring Sing as well as offering concerts for children to perform to an audience whilst in school, will form part of our school's offer.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.