



# Music Curriculum



**Intent:** At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, our music curriculum aims to inspire a love and appreciation of music while developing confidence, creativity and self-expression in every child.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, music plays an important role in the spiritual and cultural life of our school community. Through singing, listening, composing and performing, pupils are encouraged to use their God-given talents to express themselves, celebrate diversity and contribute positively to the life of the school and wider community.

Our curriculum is designed around the following four key areas and provide children with a rich and diverse musical education, allowing them to experience music in a broad range of accessible, practical and interactive ways.

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing and instrumental performance

We aim for pupils to:

- Develop musical confidence and creativity
- Build an understanding of musical vocabulary, structure and notation
- Experience and appreciate music from different cultures, traditions and historical periods
- Develop performance skills through singing and instrumental opportunities
- Understand the role music plays in community, celebration and worship

The curriculum also promotes opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development, helping pupils to develop respect, empathy and cultural understanding through music.

**Implementation:** At St Swithun's, music is delivered through a progressive and engaging curriculum, ensuring that skills and knowledge develop over time. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to develop understanding across:

- Singing and vocal technique
- Listening and appraising
- Composition and improvisation
- Performance and instrumental skills

Children revisit and build upon musical skills each year with increasing confidence and sophistication.

Pupils are exposed to:

- Music from a range of cultures, genres and traditions
- Opportunities for both individual and collaborative performance
- Practical experiences using a variety of instruments and technologies

International music is celebrated throughout the curriculum, and music linked to the backgrounds and cultures represented within the school community is actively encouraged and valued.

## Teaching Approach

Music lessons are delivered weekly by the music subject lead, with professionally trained peri teachers for instrumental tuition.

Our teaching approach includes:

- Practical and interactive learning experiences
- Opportunities for exploration, experimentation and creativity
- Explicit modelling of musical techniques and vocabulary
- Collaborative music-making and performance opportunities
- Listening and reflection activities to develop musical understanding

Lessons are designed to ensure children can:

- Perform with increasing confidence
- Compose and improvise creatively
- Listen critically and discuss music using appropriate vocabulary



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- Reflect on and improve their own work

Every year group experiences at least one live music performance each academic year. These enrichment opportunities help children:

- Appreciate music as a live art form
- Understand how musical skills can lead to future opportunities and careers
- Experience the enjoyment and power of collective musical performance

## Adaptation and Inclusion

Adaptation is embedded throughout the music curriculum to ensure all pupils can participate and succeed:

- Use of modelling and scaffolded practice for musical skills
- Opportunities for paired and group support
- Flexible approaches to composition and performance
- Use of visual prompts, rhythm aids and practical demonstrations
- Encouragement of participation at all levels, celebrating effort and progress

Our inclusive approach ensures all pupils feel valued as musicians and performers.

## Performance and Community

Music plays a central role in the life of the school community. Through performances and shared musical experiences, children:

- Perform in liturgies, celebrations and school productions
- Participate in community events and performances
- Celebrate achievements with parents, carers and peers
- Develop confidence and pride in their talents
- Contribute positively to worship, celebrations and community events

These opportunities help pupils understand the importance of music in bringing people together and enriching community life.

## Catholic Social Teaching in Music

At St Swithun's, music is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Through singing, performing and collaborative music-making, pupils develop an understanding of community, participation and respect for others. Music provides opportunities to celebrate the dignity and talents of every individual, recognising that everyone has unique gifts to share. By exploring music from different cultures and traditions, children learn to value diversity and develop solidarity with others around the world. Through worship, celebration and performance, pupils use music to serve and strengthen their community, bringing people together through shared experiences and creativity.

**Impact:** By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Demonstrate confidence in singing, performing and composing
- Listen to and appraise music thoughtfully using appropriate vocabulary
- Appreciate music from a wide range of cultures and traditions
- Perform with increasing confidence, accuracy and expression
- Understand the importance of music in community, worship and celebration
- Show creativity, resilience and collaboration through musical experiences

Pupils leave St Swithun's with a love of music and the confidence to continue engaging with music both within school and beyond.

*"Music is a world within itself, with a language we all understand."*

Stevie Wonder