



Music Development Plan Summary: *St Mary's Catholic Primary Buckfast. 2025-2026*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	August 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Kerry Manley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Sophie Kerswell
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Hub

This is a summary of how our school, St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast, 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.

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast currently follows the Charanga music scheme, run by the Devon Music Hub. We follow the New Model Music curriculum version which is based around the non-statutory guidance of the national Curriculum.

Children in Early years begin by learning to sing simple songs, move to the pulse of the music and play percussion instruments to accompany their songs. As children progress through our school, they are introduced to various music styles which they learn to sing/play and perform. Initially they work with glockenspiels and recorders moving on later to a wider range of instruments.

The scheme gradually introduces written music and music theory to accompany their playing and develop their musical knowledge further.

In addition, the scheme has a composition section which they slowly have the chance to work on. They start by being given a set of notes to play around with through to

understanding key signatures, selecting their own notes within and composing for several instruments at once.

This year, Key Stage 2 children will also have the opportunity to work on the 'YUMU' studio within the Charanga scheme. This is a digital studio which introduces music technology and allows children to compose rap, hip hop and other music styles digitally- just as the professionals would do. Children are then able to play these back, record them and perform them to the rest of the school in achievement assemblies.

Part B: Co-curricular music

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast currently offers tuition in Brass through Chris Spreadbury's program -Band Stars. Lessons are offered one-to one or in small groups. A demonstration session is carried out and a letter sent home to parents to enable them to sign their children up. There are currently 20+ children learning with more waiting to start at the beginning of the new academic year. These children have opportunities for exams with their instrument and termly concerts for parents and other pupils. Instruments are provided through the program initially, though parents are encouraged, where they can, to purchase their own should a child show interest in taking it up longer term.

Drumming with Ryan: Ryan offers one-to-one lessons one day a week ranging from 20-minute lessons to 45 mins. An initial letter is sent out to inform parents that this is available, and Ryan will come in to school at the start of an academic year and run a demonstration session to aid recruitment. Children have the opportunity to take Exams with the 'Trinity' music board should they wish and reach the required standard.

Piano with Ros Sleath. Children can access one -to-one piano lessons with Mrs Ros Sleath on a Monday. Children from reception onwards are offered piano lessons for 20 mins to half an hour working towards ABRSM exams and opportunities to perform to the school.

Alongside this, we have a chorister programme, run in partnership with Buckfast Abbey, that children can audition for. Children who are successful are given free lessons in piano and singing for which they take ABRSM exams and sing as part of the choristers with Buckfast Abbey. These children also visit and sing with other Abbey choirs across the country. Much of the singing within the chorister programme is in Latin and or Italian which also offers an added learning opportunity for them.

The chorister Singing teacher also offers singing lessons to non- chorister children in the school. Again, these children work towards taking ABRSM singing exams and performing in concerts to the school and parents if and when they feel ready.

Within our school, children have the opportunity to join a school choir run by Mrs Kerswell and Mrs Manley. Children sing a range of music both in unison and in harmony. Each term they work towards a performance with the chance to perform solos or small group numbers. Formal written music is offered to the children as well as simple printed words offering the opportunity for children to develop sight reading skills and further enhancing learning of music theory alongside the technicalities and skills required to sing as a group.

Children have the opportunity to perform with the choir at events outside of school e.g. Christmas concerts in our local town, Concerts with Newton Abbot orchestra, and alongside other schools on workshops etc. Additionally, our children frequently visit retirement homes in the area, to perform concerts and share the love of music with the residents, realising that the music they make can have real purpose for others as well as themselves.

There is no audition for this. Parents can sign their child up via a termly form sent out via email. Should children show interest but have not been able to get parents to sign up online, a phone call is made to determine whether the parent will allow but has been unable to access, and if agreed the child is then added to the choir with a note that verbal consent has been received.

Part C: Musical experiences

For the academic year 2025-2025 there are a range of musical experiences planned for our children.

Children will regularly sing in hymn practise and assemblies as well as in class prayer times several times a week. During the Autumn term they will have the chance to sing and play instruments in our harvest festival learning a range of songs that they will perform to the school and parents. Later in the term we will have our Christmas performances. Nursery and Reception will sing and perform a simple version of the Nativity story which they will perform to parents over 2 performances, and a further third performance for the rest of the school.

Y1 & 2 will sing their own traditional Christmas Nativity which they will perform for parents and the upper school in our beautiful school hall.

Y3-6 perform a more in-depth version of the nativity story which they perform in the splendour of Buckfast Abbey for parents and visitors alike. Children have the opportunity to audition for solo singing roles and children playing instruments may also be incorporated. Key Stage 2 Classes each prepare and sing at all the Local Churches- in our Crib Blessings- where families and parishioners are also invited.

During the Christmas season, the Choir will perform several songs as part of a concert for residents in several local care-homes. They also sing carols in the town's Christmas market.

During the spring term, children in the school choir will learn a version of Noah's ark which they will have the opportunity to perform in concert form to parents on the last week of the spring term, just before Easter. In previous years they have performed several productions of various scales.

Each year, we have secured the opportunity to take part in the Bournemouth Symphony orchestras school program, where all KS2 children will learn pieces of music to sing and play. They will then be taken to Exeter in the spring term to perform this, with the orchestra as part of a school's concert (alongside other local primary schools). The children will see and hear a full professional orchestra in action, opening their musical world to a wider range of classical music and instrument sounds and developing their understanding of the importance of music within other fields i.e.- Film making.

There will also be opportunities for children taking instrument lessons, to perform each term for their class and the whole school and their families in mini concerts.

In the future

During the forthcoming year we are looking to enhance certain areas within music. Firstly, we are looking to incorporate the digital music element securely into the KS2 curriculum. This has been successfully trialled with Year Three last Summer and is being rolled out to the remaining KS2 classes.

We aim to increase the class music lessons to an hour for every class, giving more time for the children to fully immerse themselves in their music and allow compositions to be fully developed.

We are looking to secure further instrumental teachers to offer a wider range of Instrument lessons across the school. We have two teachers willing to offer lessons and are working on introducing these to the school in due course.

With the extra instrumental tuition, we hope to include a termly music concert/ performance for parents with groups and individual soloists when we can, involving some or all these teachers as available. We are also looking to start small bands/singing groups in extracurricular lessons to encourage children to perform together and eventually create their own songs.