

Music development plan summary: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and Nursery (2026-27)



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	4 June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss Laura Pitchers
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Diocese of Leeds 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.

Music at St Joseph's

Charanga is used to provide structure, clear sequencing, progression and consistency in our weekly music lessons

Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.”
– Gerald Ford

Choir often lead our whole school singing

Weekly whole school singing assemblies, including our preschool children

Children are given opportunities to perform in front of their classes, our school, our families, and our local parishioners. This encourages their love of music, increases self-esteem and confidence, and helps to develop their performance skills and technique.

Our school community (families, children and staff) sing together to celebrate Christmas

Songs and actions throughout our everyday learning

Singing at our local care home, to bring music into our local community

Singing in Church services

A whole class set of glockenspiels

We live, love and learn with the Lord

Part A: Curriculum music

Every class dedicates a minimum of one hour to the discreet learning of music each week. This is a timetabled session and is non-negotiable. All children participate in weekly music sessions, from our 2 year old Nursery class, right up to Year 6.

Our music curriculum '**Long Term Plan**' can be found on our website, using the following link: [St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery - Music \(st-josephs-tadcaster.n-yorks.sch.uk\)](https://st-josephs-tadcaster.n-yorks.sch.uk)

On this page, you will also find our '**Music At St Joseph's Learning Portfolio**', and our knowledge and skills progression grids for each year group.

Our music provision, as with all our provision at St Joseph's, is completely inclusive. For example, we incorporate signing language and actions into songs, to ensure children are able to fully participate without the need to read lyrics, thus overcoming potential literacy barriers. Children can be provided with ear defenders where the collective sound of music may be too sensorially overwhelming for them.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music is an important part of our school life at St Joseph's. Music is woven throughout each school day, to enrich our learning and well-being.

Our core music curriculum is supplemented by daily songs and actions in our learning, weekly singing assemblies, choir practice and music and singing events in our local community.

Children are given access to our glockenspiels and our school piano. This has often resulted in children voluntarily staying inside to 'create music' during breaktimes. Children are given opportunities to perform in front of their classes, our school, our families, and our local parishioners. This encourages their love of music, increases self-esteem and confidence, and helps to develop their performance skills and technique.

Part C: Musical experiences

Each Tuesday, our whole school (including our preschool children) participates in a singing assembly. We are accompanied by a volunteer local parishioner, who plays the piano for us. We sing together, and include actions (thus encouraging increased participation from our younger children or children with SEND).

A group of children rehearsed Christmas songs and visited our local care home, to bring the residents some festive musical joy!

We regularly sing in our local Church, St Joseph's. Sometimes, this is during a regular Mass, where our children are members of the parish. At other times, this is for specially organised events, where our children stand at the front and perform for other parishioners.

At Christmas, we invited families and friends from our school community to join us in singing carols around the Christmas Tree.

We have offered a Street Dance after school club, where children have learned 'finding the beat' and 'body percussion.' Our clubs are subsidised for all families, and offered completely free of charge for families in receipt of Pupil Premium.

In the future

Next year, we have organised for the Diocese of Leeds School Singing Service to:

- Provide at least 30 hours of vocal tuition across at least 30 weeks of the academic year.
- Prepare your pupils for appropriate performances in school.
- Provide our Curriculum Framework document, outlining the content of our sessions.
- Offer your pupils the opportunity to participate in additional performances arranged by the Diocese (services, concerts, festivals, competitions, recordings and broadcasts).
- Offer your pupils the opportunity to audition for one of our youth choirs.
- Offer free access to our CPD training for your staff.
- Offer any advice needed on the use of singing in school, both for liturgies and in the wider school environment and provide support in applying for funding for the singing provision where applicable.

Further information for families

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.