



Music Development Plan: Ss John Fisher and Thomas More

'Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord' - Ephesians 5:19

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Elliot Slater
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	John Marciniak
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	One Education

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.

Curriculum music

At Ss John Fisher and Thomas More Catholic Primary School we currently provide a structured and comprehensive music curriculum across all year groups, including our youngest learners in EYFS and Nursery. The music provision is designed to be both inclusive and progressive, building musical skills and appreciation throughout a child's journey at our school.

The development of music at our school is a priority within our curriculum planning and resource allocation, reflecting our deep commitment to the development of performing and expressive arts. We believe these artistic disciplines are essential for nurturing well-rounded individuals who can express themselves confidently and creatively.

Core Music Curriculum

- All year groups from Nursery through Year 6 receive dedicated music teaching on a termly basis, throughout the academic year;
- Each term focuses on developing specific musical skills, knowledge, and appreciation appropriate to the age group that fully covers the National Curriculum;
- EYFS and Nursery settings have adapted, age-appropriate music sessions that focus on early musical exploration and development.

Enhanced Provision

- Weekly singing sessions are delivered in partnership with Shrewsbury Diocese, reinforcing our Catholic ethos through sacred music and hymns
- Specialist music teachers are employed to deliver the curriculum across all year groups, ensuring high-quality music education
- The specialist provision ensures technical aspects of music (notation, instrumental skills, composition) are taught accurately and progressively

Co-curricular music

Inclusive Access to Instrumental Learning

The school offers free peripatetic music lessons for children eligible for pupil premium and those with SEND, ensuring financial circumstances and learning needs are not barriers to musical development. For all small group tuition and ensemble participation, children receive a free loan of the musical instrument they are learning, removing another potential obstacle to participation and allowing all children to practice regularly at home without additional cost to families.

Our popular school choir embodies much of the school's inspirational view for music and demonstrates the excellence of our music program through various prestigious performance opportunities.

Musical experiences

Our pupils are provided with rich and varied musical experiences throughout their time at school:

- The school choir performs regularly for parents at school events as well as for the public across local businesses and community settings, including performances at a residential home where they bring joy to elderly residents
- Our school has established a tradition of participating in the local Irish Music Festival, celebrating cultural heritage through music
- Children take great joy in singing during school assemblies and whole school masses, reinforcing our Catholic identity through music

- Pupils in Key Stage 1, EYFS, Nursery and Year 6 all produce dedicated performances at various points throughout the academic year, which showcase both singing and instrumental skills they have developed
- Staff members across the school regularly attend and support musical performances, demonstrating the whole-school value placed on musical achievement
- The music lead and specialists are constantly engaged in seeking new performance opportunities for pupils, ensuring our children experience the rewards of sharing their musical talents with diverse audiences

Community Performance

The Ss John Fisher and Thomas More School Choir has been specifically invited to sing at the Lord Mayor's carol concert, highlighting the recognized quality of our music education. Additionally, the choir regularly performs for the public at Manchester Airport and a local shopping centre, providing authentic performance experiences for our students while reaffirming our school's strong commitment to the performing arts.

Action Planning for further Music Development

1. To ensure that assessment practices in music are consistent across all key stages, allowing for effective monitoring of pupil progress and identification of areas for development;
2. To explore opportunities to broaden vocal participation beyond the choir, potentially through regular singing assemblies across all key stages, and additionally to seek opportunities for pupils to singing collectively with other children of their age, for example through the Young Voices programme;
3. To continue to provide regular and deliberate enrichment musical opportunities for all pupils, building on the existing strong choir offer and ensuring these opportunities are accessible across all key stages with additional music performance opportunities for our youngest pupils and those with SEND;
4. To investigate ways to link the skills and enthusiasm developed in the choir to classroom music activities, creating a more cohesive musical experience for students
5. To maintain and further develop the high quality of the school choir, providing enriching performance opportunities and fostering a love of singing for participating students;
6. To foster collaboration between music specialists and general class teachers to enhance their confidence and skills in delivering the music curriculum, potentially through joint planning, team-teaching, or professional development opportunities.