



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

Music Curriculum Map

Philosophy

Every child is a unique gift from God, with his or her own unique gifts.

Our Catholic school, inspired by the teaching of Jesus Christ, will always endeavour to meet the needs of every child within our school. At St. Monica's, we strive to ensure that all children and staff are offered the opportunity to develop to their full potential in individual, educational, moral, intellectual and spiritual needs.

Our Mission Statement is "Let Trust, Respect and Love live here."

What we teach and what your children learn in Music

Please see below an overview of our plans (organised by Year Group and Term) for teaching and learning in Music in our school.

If you want further information on the curriculum, including how it is adapted for children within classes who are at different stages of learning including your child, please contact your child's teacher or email the school on stmonicas@st-monicas.co.uk

Our Intent, Implementation and Impact statement for Music

It is recognised by academics and educators that music in its various forms can have a role to play in language and reading development, a recognition that is supported by scientific evidence (Long 2008; Patel 2012; Forde Thompson and Schlaug 2015; Thomson, Leong, and Goswami 2013). For example, after having had four months of music lessons which included singing, rhythm work and graphic representation, a group of four- and five-year- old children showed that they could segment phonemes more fluently compared with children who had not had the same musical experiences (Gromko 2005).

The purpose of this document is to state the aims, principles, strategies and organisation of the teaching of music through Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 National Curriculum statement. 'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon. '

Intent:

To develop musical knowledge and skills so that children are engaged and inspired to develop a love of music. Children will know the key elements of music through listening, singing, composing, performing and reviewing a wide range of music. Our music curriculum is designed to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music.

We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities. Our music scheme enables pupils to meet the end of key stage attainment targets outlined in the National curriculum.

Implementation:

At St Monica's Catholic Primary School, we use, mainly, the 'KAPOW Primary' scheme for music. In support of this we also use the on-line learning platform 'BBC Teach'.

Milton Keynes Music Hub (Community Learning MK - Music Faculty) provides whole class specialist tuition in some year groups. The children participate in fun and engaging sessions, sing songs, explore and play a range of instruments (namely keyboards, clarinets, cellos) to develop their musical knowledge and skills.

Milton Keynes Music Hub also provides small group violin via peripatetic teachers.

As of September 2026 we offer violin, cello and guitar lessons and we have a large number of children participating in these.

Our music scheme takes a holistic approach to music, in which the individual strands below are woven together to create engaging and enriching learning experiences:

- Listening and evaluating
- Creating sound
- Notation
- Improvising and composing
- Performing

Through our teaching of music, pupils will know a range of key vocabulary, the required musical elements and the history of music and composers. In addition, singing is embedded in our termly collective worship timetable and the children sing a variety of worship songs. We believe in the value of singing - it being much more engaging for the children than learning by listening solely to recorded music.

We adopt the 'spiral curriculum' model where previous skills and knowledge are returned to and built upon. Children progress in terms of tackling more complex tasks and doing more simple tasks better, as well as developing understanding and knowledge of the history of music, staff, and other musical notations, the interrelated dimensions of music and more. The children listen to and appraise a wide range of recorded music.

Each lesson can be adapted, to ensure access by all pupils. For example, in a singing session, a child can be placed next to another child with a stronger voice, pitch and rhythm.

Extra-curricular opportunities are available for the children including KS2 and Gospel Mash-up choirs.

Enrichment opportunities are planned into the curriculum each year.

- live musical performances
- performing in collective worship

Impact:

By the time our pupils leave St Monica's, they will know a wide repertoire of songs and music from different cultures and historic periods. They will have acquired the musical knowledge and skills required to sing, play, compose, perform and appraise music. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a student may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection.

Music develops an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to students individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Through this, children will understand how music is influenced by the wider cultural, social, and historical contexts in which it is developed. Via the use of manuscript paper pupils gain an understanding of the various ways in which music can be written down to support performing and composing activities. A manuscript book stays with each child throughout Key Stage 2. Achievements can be constantly monitored through both formative and summative assessment opportunities and when they leave Year 6 our pupils will be able to demonstrate and articulate an enthusiasm for music, identifying their own personal musical preferences.

MUSIC whole year overview, Sept '26 – '27 KAPOW/MK Music Hub.



Year group	Advent		Lent		Pentecost	
	1	2	1	2	1	2
Reception	Musical stories	Celebration music	Transport	Music and movement	Exploring sound	Big Band
Y1/2 A	Keeping the pulse (Theme: My favourite things)	Tempo (Theme: Snail and Mouse)	Pitch (Theme: Superheroes)	Instruments (Theme: Musical storytelling)	Singing (Theme: On this island)	Pitch (Theme: Musical me)
Y1/2 B	Dynamics (Theme: Seaside)	Sound patterns (Theme: Fairytales)	Call and Response (Theme: Animals)	Musical symbols (Theme: Under the Sea)	Contrasting Dynamics (Theme: Space)	Structure (Theme: Myths and Legends)
Y3	Ballads	Creating compositions in response to an animation (Theme: Mountains)	Developing singing technique (Theme: the Vikings)	Pentatonic melodies and composition (Theme: Chinese New Year)	Jazz	Traditional Instruments and improvisation (Theme: India)
Y4	Body and tuned percussions (Theme: Rainforests)	Rock and Roll	Changes in pitch, tempo and dynamics (Theme: Rivers)	Haiku, music and performance	<i>MK Music Hub whole class strings</i>	<i>MK Music Hub whole class strings</i>

				(Theme: Hanami festival)	19/04/27 Samba & carnival sounds & instruments (Theme: South America)	Adapting and transposing motifs
Y5	Looping and Remixing	Composition notation (Theme: Ancient Egypt)	Composition to represent the festival of colour (Theme: Holi festival)	Blues	Musical theatre	South and West Africa
Y6	Songs of World War 2	Baroque	Theme and variations (Theme: Pop Art)	MK Music Hub - Specialist Music Teaching African Drumming 22/02/27 Dynamics, pitch and texture (Theme: Coast - Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn)	MK Music Hub Musical Apps. 11 weeks total 19/04/27 Film music	MK Music Hub Musical Apps. 11 weeks total Composing and performing a Leavers' song

The history of music in Key Stage 2 is taught through the following Kapow units

Year group	Kapow unit	Historical focus
Year 3	Jazz	Development of jazz and influential musicians
Year 3	Traditional instruments and improvisation (India)	Traditional Indian music and its cultural heritage
Year 4	Rock and roll	Origins and development of rock and roll in the 1950s
Year 4	Samba and carnival sounds and instruments	Origins and cultural traditions of samba
Year 5	Composition notation (Ancient Egypt)	Music and notation in an ancient civilisation
Year 5	Blues	Origins and development of blues music
Year 5	South and West Africa	African musical traditions and influences
Year 5	Musical theatre	Historical development of musical theatre
Year 6	Songs of World War 2	Music during WWII and its social significance
Year 6	Theme and variations (Pop Art)	Development of musical forms
Year 6	Baroque	Baroque music, composers and historical period

Manuscript books are available from Year 3 to record notation as appropriate.

In addition, we follow St. Monica's Recorded Music Schedule which has corresponding information on each composer, giving access to high quality listening material.

- The National Curriculum for MUSIC comprises of three elements - COMPOSITION, LISTENING, PERFORMANCE - the final point for KS2 is '*develop an understanding of the history of music*'

KAPOW:

LISTENING AND EVALUATING, CREATING SOUND, NOTATION, IMPROVISING AND COMPOSING, PERFORMING

HOWEVER, we have lifetime membership with Active Music digital: