

Music development plan summary: St James the Great Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Denis O'Regan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Southwark Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

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.

To read in more detail about the provision music at St James the Great Catholic Primary School, please visit our music curriculum page
<https://stjamesthegreat.southwark.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Music-Progression-Map.pdf>

Music is taught in class every week and is informed by the Southwark music curriculum.

Lessons are a minimum of 40 minutes and are taught by a music specialist in Years 1 to 6 or the class teachers in Early Years. Teaching is supported by specialist planning. This musical learning is further supplemented by weekly singing assemblies in each key stage, lasting 15 minutes.

As an introduction to tuned instruments, children in Years 3 and 4 learn to play the Recorder and all children in Years 5 & 6 learn to play a brass instrument: Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone or Tuba which is supplied by the school; they learn as a whole-class ensemble taught by a music specialist from Southwark Music Service. Over the course of the two-year programme children learn to play together to a standard where they perform in school, at our parish church, at other local and central London venues.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At St James the Great Catholic Primary School, we currently offer small-group lessons in recorder and brass through Southwark Music Service.

We have a Key Stage 2 Choir, a recorder club which has both a beginner and an intermediate group, and a Super Band brass group. All ensembles meet weekly and are provided by music specialists.

All music provision is free including the instruments themselves.

We work closely with Southwark Music Service to ensure we can offer the best possible music opportunities for our children. If you have an enquiry regarding instrumental lessons on offer, please visit our school website or contact the school office:

office@stjamesthegreat.southwark.sch.uk

Part C: Musical events

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Children will have the opportunity to perform or experience high quality music this academic year. Please see below for a representative list of those opportunities:

- Year 6 trip to see the performance at 'Bold Tendencies'.
- Years 4 & 5 performance with the 'Solomon's Knot' Company
- The choir performing at the St James the Great Catholic Primary School termly concerts.
- The Brass ensembles performing at Termly concerts
- All children from Nursery to Year 6 sing or play instruments at the Christmas Nativity or Tableau, either in school or at the parish church.
- The Year 6 Brass ensemble performing at the Switch-on of Christmas Lights at Peckham Square.
- Choir, ensembles and soloists performing at our annual Music & Dance Showcase: the 'Big Bash'.
- All classes attend faith-based services and assemblies either in school or the parish church where singing is an important element.
- Brass ensembles play as part of faith-based celebrations which includes public performance.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- To embed the new Southwark scheme of work across classes in KS2.
- Introduce history of music into the curriculum of KS2 in a systematic way.
- To continue to source more opportunities for children to be introduced to live music including from great composers and musicians.
- To continue to source more performance opportunities for the various instrument groups but especially KS2 Choir, Recorder Group and Brass ensembles and Superband.
- to provide opportunities to other schools and organisation including further developing our links with Cherry Gardens school.