Music development plan summary:
St Joseph's RC Primary School, Ramsbottom.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Amy Ardill
Name of local music hub	Bury 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.

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.

National Curriculum

The programmes of study of the National Curriculum for music underpin the teaching and learning of music at St Joseph's.

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Our Music Vision

At St Joseph's we recognise that Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between home, school and the wider world. The teaching of music increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment. At St Joseph's all children will have the opportunity to sing, to listen to music, to experience different musical instruments, to perform and to enjoy music. Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and listen to a wide range of music from their own cultural heritage and from other cultures. Our themes of the week include a different musician per week for the children to listen to and to discover a range of artists from different decades and cultures.

Our Music Practice (Implementation)

Throughout school we use the National Curriculum to plan objectives. We then use the Charanga music scheme to plan lessons and activities, as well as using a wide range of other teaching and learning resources.

At St Joseph's we believe Music is effective when:

- Children learn how to play tuned and untuned instruments, musically play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- Pupils experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music. improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- Children learn how to listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
- Pupils learn how to pay attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.
- When appropriate children use and understand staff and other musical notations.
- Children are helped to appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians as they develop an understanding of the history of music.

Our Music Outcomes

At St Joseph's all pupils will benefit from a high-quality music education which will engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. It

will increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to enjoy a wide and rich range of music. Children have regular opportunities to revisit and consolidate prior skills and knowledge to help them become confident musicians.

Each class from EYFS to Year 6 will have one music lesson per week, 45 minutes for EYFS and 60 minutes for Year 1 to Year 6.

SEND Provision

All pupils will have access to the music curriculum including those with SEND.

The primary music curriculum can be a powerful tool in supporting children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in several ways. Some of these include:

- ensuring children have access to an inclusive learning environment

- ensuring a variety of teaching styles are used

- playing instruments to enhance motor skills and coordination

- providing a safe space for expression

- providing an opportunity for communication through music

- building confidence and self esteem

By fostering an inclusive and engaging environment, the primary music curriculum can effectively support children with SEND, enhancing their overall development and learning experience.

Part B: Co-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.

Bury Music Service provide lessons for children who would like to learn to play an instrument. These include violin, trumpet, clarinet and the flute.

Rock Steady provide weekly in-school band lessons for groups of children from Year 2 – Year 6. Children learn to play the drums, the keyboard, bass guitar, guitar and some children choose to be the lead singer of the band.

Parents and Carers are given the opportunity to sign their children up for these music lessons at the start of each academic year. Pupil premium funding is used for any families who wish to use their funding to subsidise music lessons.

From Year 3, children can join the school choir. The school choir perform throughout the year at a range of venues, including Tesco, Bury Market, Killelea House, The Buchannan Social Club and many more.

Part C: Musical experiences

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.

Throughout the academic year, children experience additional musical experiences at St Joseph's. Each week, we come together as a whole school to sing together in our assemblies. Additionally, at least once a month, we have a whole school hymn practise. Children also sing in our whole school masses, class masses and class assemblies as well as in class.

Our EYFS and KS1 children perform a nativity play each Christmas for the rest of the school and for their families.

Each class perform two songs at our Coffee and Carols event each Christmas and at our Easter Songs and Hot Cross Buns.

Year 6 finish their journey at St Joseph's with an end of year show for the whole school, and additional performances for their families.

Each year, KS2 children have the opportunity to take part in The Young Voices concert in Manchester. They learn a repertoire of songs along with dance moves and sign language and perform with thousands of children as the largest choir in the UK.

Each year, one KS2 class is chosen to take part in the Bury Music Service, National Opera performance. These have included performances of Esio Trot, The Magic Flute and Hansel and Gretal.

In the future

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

Our areas for development for music include:

Increase Whole-School Singing Opportunities

- Plan additional whole school singing opportunities to further promote engagement, confidence, and enjoyment in music across all year groups.
- Build up a repertoire of songs and hymns that children are confident to sing.
- Children to have the chance to sing songs by the musician of the week.

Promote opportunities for improvisation, composition, and creative exploration.

- Plan and provide opportunities focused on improvisation or composition during music lesson. (e.g. KS1- use untuned percussion to create sound effects for a story, KS2- Improvise rhythms or melodies over a simple backing track)
- Use age-appropriate music apps or software (e.g. Chrome Music Lab, GarageBand) to support digital composition, especially for KS2.
- Use body percussion during music lessons, whole school singing practise and other parts of the school day.
- Create opportunities for children to share their compositions.

Further information

Music Page on our school website:

Music - St Joseph's RC Primary School Ramsbottom (stoccat.org.uk)

Bury Music Service

burymusic.co.uk

Rocksteady

Home - Rocksteady Music School