

Music at St Mary's Catholic Academy



The Value of Music

'Music unites people and communities - and gives great joy and comfort. In schools, it brings together young people through the shared endeavour of whole school singing, ensemble playing, experimenting with the creative process and through the love of listening to friends performing' (Veronica Wadley - Baroness Fleet).

With this in mind, our vision at St Marys is to ensure that we provide a rigorous and broad music curriculum that inspires our children to grow, succeed and develop a lifelong love of music, with the ultimate aim of nurturing the next generation of talented musicians.

Music is at the heart of our Catholic community, our wider community in Hyson Green and is an intrinsic part of our school life.

'We should never underestimate the power of music, it knows no boundaries of language, race or background. It is the universal language'

(Julian Lloyd Webber, Cellist and Conductor)



Music at St Mary's



We aim to:

- Promote children's musical **curiosity** through playing a wide variety of musical instruments, developing the sounds they create and building up their overall musical knowledge.
- Build upon children's **understanding** of music and further develop their musical skills by providing them the opportunity to learn the guitar and be taught by music specialists throughout KS2.
- Ensure our children are **immersed** in music throughout the school. Pupils will experience music within their own classrooms, extra-curricular musical opportunities and a musical culture which is embedded across the school community.
- Ensure music teaching is **consistent** and of a **high quality** throughout the school. This is achieved by:
 - providing a carefully planned progression route
 - adopting the 'Charanga' scheme of work as an effective tool for teaching music
 - accessing high quality, music specialists to teach in all of our KS2 classes
- Supporting and inspiring musically **talented** children through a wide variety of musical opportunities, including the participation in our school choir, St Mary's guitar ensemble, the Nottingham Music Hub's Music Camp, the Local Area Band, music festivals and city-wide interactive concerts.



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Aspiring Musicians

The school features many exciting opportunities for pupils to showcase their musical talents and grow as a musician. Be it in the school choir, guitar lessons, the St Mary's assembly band, the Local Area Band, musical concerts, school performances and assemblies or opportunities in the wider community. There are regular opportunities for pupils to take on solo and leading roles in performances. These opportunities allow our children to develop a 'can do' attitude, enables them to build confidence and self-esteem, which ultimately helps raise the aspirations of what our children can achieve.

"I think being in choir is great because it is an opportunity to take part in different events and being able to do what I enjoy with my friends is wonderful. As well as that, it's a great responsibility to represent our school and make a good impression in front of others."

Gabriella



What does Music look like at St Mary's?

Our music teaching follows a carefully planned progression route that integrates the work of the school curriculum and Nottingham Music Hub initiatives into a framework where all aspects work together.

The Model Music Curriculum is at the core of our music teaching and we ensure that all our children benefit from a curriculum which combines knowledge, skills and understanding in a practical way.

Our children come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and we aim to celebrate our cultural diversity, through the active listening to and engagement in a range of music from the different cultures and traditions linked to our school and wider community. We strive to develop children's pride in their heritage and appreciation of others' religions, cultures and traditions and music plays an integral part in achieving this.

In the Early Years, KS1 and Y3 the 'Charanga' scheme provides an effective tool for teaching music in a practical and progressive way.

In Y3 the children are also introduced to learning to play the guitar through small group sessions with a music specialist, Mr Walters.

Our Y4, 5 and 6 children engage in weekly music sessions with music specialists from the Nottingham Music Hub. During these sessions the children continue to develop as budding guitarists.

As well as working with small instrumental groups, Mr Walters, leads our weekly singing session, our upper KS2 guitar ensemble and our KS2 choir.

Mrs Hayes leads Music and attends the Local Area Band which we host at St Mary's.

Resources, Schemes and Service Providers Supporting our Planning and Teaching:



If you would like to learn more, please speak to Mrs Hayes about music at St Mary's.