

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
 - accessing high quality, music specialists to teach in all of our classes
- Supporting and inspiring musically **talented** children through a wide variety of musical opportunities, including the participation in our school choir, our school band, the Nottingham Music Hub's 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, instrumental lessons, the Local Area Band, 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.

"Without music the world would be silence. It wouldn't give you that smile on your face, that feeling of happiness that something else is in the world, not just gloominess. Life is about relaxing sometimes before the next job."

Zofia



What does Music look like at St Mary's?

Our music teaching follows a carefully planned progression route created by Our Lady of Lourdes Music Service.

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.

Across the whole school, children engage in weekly music sessions that are underpinned by our whole school music progression document.

In the Early Years children begin by exploring a wide range of percussion instruments, including djembes. Building on from this, KS1 are then introduced to glockenspiels, followed by the introduction of boom whackers, recorders, ukeles, guitars, toots, trumpets and flutes in KS2.

We are very fortunate to have a strong team of music specialists (Mr Edwards, Mr Jones and Mr Walters), who as well as teaching our music lessons also run a KS2 choir, a KS2 instrumental group and provide instrumental lessons for Y5 and 6 children who would like to progress further with a chosen instrument. We also provide 'Nurture Music Sessions'.

Mrs Hayes leads Music at St Mary's. She teaches music in F1, supports the music specialists, guides our 'KS1 Singing Playground Buddies', supports children with attending the Local Area Band and ensures we access a wide range of musical enrichment opportunities.

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.