

The Big picture (Overview)

At St Finbar's Catholic Primary School, we are dedicated to integrating music into the fabric of our school culture, recognizing its unique ability to communicate, inspire, and motivate children.

Participating in music is not just an artistic pursuit; it contributes significantly to the development of self-esteem, confidence, well-being, and learning skills.

Aligned with the National Curriculum for KS1 and KS2, our music education emphasizes composing, performing, and appraising as core components.

What it's like to be a Musician in our school (pupil voice)

- I get to improvise and we get to learn new music all the time (Year 5).
- We get to showcase our new learning and I love to play together as an orchestra. (Year 4).
- I love having concerts and our parents come to see us sing (Year 3).
- I love singing in the Nativity concert and finding the tempo in Music classes (Year 1).

Teaching and Learning (Key learning and skills)

- 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.

What we want our curriculum to help our children know and do (Intent)

Our music curriculum has been meticulously crafted to deliver a structured and progressive program, providing children with opportunities for practical exploration. This approach aims to foster the development of their musical creativity, allowing them to evolve as listeners, composers, improvisers, and performers.

We firmly believe that students deserve a comprehensive and ambitious music curriculum that encompasses a wealth of skills and knowledge. Such a curriculum should ignite curiosity and equip students for future learning.

This curriculum is designed to not only enhance musical proficiency but also to promote a well-rounded and enriching educational experience, emphasizing the broader aspects of personal and academic growth.

How we organise our curriculum (Implement)

St Finbar's Catholic Primary School is dedicated to infusing a vibrant and enjoyable music curriculum throughout every level of the our school. Our vision combines the pursuit of teaching excellence with fostering an environment where learning is both enjoyable and passionate.

To structure our curriculum planning, we rely on the Kapow Music scheme. This scheme not only provides opportunities for students of all abilities to enhance their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit but also incorporate a planned progression, ensuring that students are consistently challenged as they progress through the school.

In Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5, we extend Wider Opportunities to all pupils by introducing them to Brass instruments. Learning to play an instrument contributes to the development of coordination and fine motor skills. Children also learn to express themselves through rhythmic patterns, and this experience has demonstrated increased resilience and self-esteem in all students.

Our school actively engages in numerous musical opportunities, including whole-class performances, Christmas plays, and participation in local events such as Carol Singing.

How we know children are knowing and doing more (Impact)

The progress and enjoyment in Music at our school are consistently on the rise, evident through various means such as assessments, recordings, photographs, performances, and concerts.

We take pride in considering music a genuine success in our school, boasting a robust musical culture. Our students are cultivating a deep love and passion for the subject, a sentiment we are dedicated to fostering and expanding. The ongoing pursuit of opportunities to integrate music into all facets of school life remains a priority, coupled with a focused effort on enhancing our confidence and proficiency in effective music pedagogies.