

POLICY

POLICY TYPE

MAT Policy to adopted in full across all schools	
LGC Policy to be reviewed and approved locally	✓



*"Share the Love of God,
every day in everything
we learn, do and say"*

Approval Date:	2026/27 – AUTUMN TERM
Review Date:	2027/28 – AUTUMN TERM

ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2026 - 2027

Music Intent and Aims

At St Philomena's Catholic Primary School, we believe that music is a powerful form of communication that enriches children's lives, develops confidence and creativity, and enables pupils to express themselves as individuals and as part of a community.

Music is an important part of the cultural and spiritual life of our school. Through singing, performing, composing and listening, children develop confidence, resilience, creativity and teamwork. Music allows pupils to explore different cultures, traditions and historical contexts, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse world around them.

As a Catholic school, music also plays an important role in our collective worship and spiritual development. Through hymn practice, Masses, celebrations and performances, pupils experience music as a way of bringing people together and celebrating our faith and community.

St Philomena's delivers music education across three key areas:

Curriculum music
Co-curricular music opportunities
Musical experiences

Our music provision aims to:

- Provide a broad, ambitious and enjoyable music curriculum for every pupil
 - Ensure all pupils develop the skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising.
 - Develop children's confidence in singing, playing instruments and performing to others.
 - Provide opportunities for pupils to experience a wide range of musical styles, cultures and traditions.
 - Develop pupils' understanding of musical vocabulary, notation, rhythm, pulse, pitch, dynamics, texture and musical structures.
 - Encourage children to become creative musicians through improvisation, composition and performance.
 - Ensure music is accessible to all pupils and that barriers to participation are reduced wherever possible.
 - Provide opportunities for children to continue their musical journey beyond curriculum lessons through choirs, ensembles, instrumental tuition and external musical experiences.
- We aim for pupils leaving St Philomena's to have confidence in their own musical abilities, an appreciation of music from across the world and the skills to participate as performers, creators and listeners.

School Information

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Sept 26-July 27

Date this summary was published	Sept 26
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 26
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Stacey Anderson
Name of local music hub	Bromley Youth Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady BMYT Young Voices

Inclusion and Access

At St Philomena's, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences and that financial circumstances do not prevent children from developing their musical potential.

The school actively works to reduce barriers to participation through a range of inclusive approaches.

Whole-class instrumental learning is embedded within our curriculum. Pupils have access to recorder tuition in Key Stage 1 and planned ukulele tuition in Key Stage 2. Instruments are provided by the school where possible so that all children can participate, regardless of whether families are able to purchase an instrument.

The school funds places with Rocksteady for identified pupils, allowing children who may otherwise have limited access to paid instrumental tuition to develop their musical skills, confidence and performance experience through band-based learning.

Choir and ensemble opportunities at St Philomena's are free of charge.

We also work closely with Bromley Youth Music Trust, who provide advice, support and access to wider musical opportunities. Families are signposted towards financial support opportunities where available.

Curriculum Music

At St Philomena's, our music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), the National Curriculum for Music, EYFS Expressive Arts guidance and high-quality resources including Sing Up.

Our curriculum is designed to develop confident musicians who can perform, compose, listen critically and understand the wider cultural and historical importance of music.

Timetabled Curriculum Lessons

All pupils receive weekly music education.

Reception pupils receive 30 minutes of weekly music teaching.

Key Stage 1 pupils receive 60 minutes of weekly music teaching.

Key Stage 2 pupils receive 60 minutes of weekly music teaching.

All pupils participate in additional 30 minutes weekly singing through hymn practice.

Through curriculum music lessons and whole-school singing, pupils receive a broad and substantial musical entitlement.

Early Years Foundation Stage Music

Reception pupils enjoy weekly music sessions linked to the EYFS Expressive Arts curriculum.

Children develop:

- Singing and vocal expression.
- Awareness of rhythm, pulse and pattern.
- Confidence in responding to music.
- Exploration of percussion instruments and different sounds.
- Creativity through musical play and experimentation.

Music opportunities are also available through continuous provision, where children can independently explore instruments, songs and musical resources.

Key Stage 1 Music

Pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 receive teacher-led music lessons which develop their musical foundations.

Children develop:

- Singing confidence.
- Understanding of rhythm and pulse.
- Listening and responding skills.
- Knowledge of simple musical notation.
- Ensemble skills.

Key Stage 2 Music

All pupils from Year 3 to Year 6 receive weekly specialist music teaching.

Lessons develop pupils':

- Performing skills.
- Composing skills.
- Musical vocabulary.
- Understanding of musical history and cultures.
- Confidence as soloists and ensemble performers.

Children explore a broad range of repertoire including:

- Traditional music from different cultures.
- Classical music.
- Popular music.
- Songs from musicals.

- Sacred music.

Pupils develop their ability to perform individually and collaboratively using voices, percussion instruments and classroom instruments.

Whole-class recorder tuition provides pupils with an accessible introduction to instrumental learning. Providing instruments through school resources enables all children to participate and supports equality of access.

Assessment and Monitoring

At St Philomena's, we monitor the impact and quality of music education to ensure that pupils are developing as confident and skilled musicians.

Pupils' musical progress is monitored through:

- Ongoing teacher assessment during practical activities.
- Observation of performing, composing and listening skills.
- Evaluation of pupils' musical understanding and confidence.
- Pupil voice activities.
- Review of curriculum planning and progression.
- Recording and evaluation of performances.

The Music Lead monitors the quality of music education through lesson observations, discussions with staff and pupils, review of curriculum development and evaluation of participation in wider musical opportunities.

Assessment information is used to identify strengths, support future planning and ensure that pupils build upon their musical knowledge and skills as they progress through the school.

Musical Progression and Talent Development

At St Philomena's, we aim to nurture every child's musical potential and encourage pupils who demonstrate particular enthusiasm, confidence or ability to continue developing their skills.

Pupils are encouraged to extend their musical learning through:

- School choir.
- School orchestra.
- Instrumental tuition.
- Performances and concerts.
- Opportunities provided through Bromley Youth Music Trust and other local music organisations.

We aim to provide clear pathways for pupils who wish to continue music beyond the classroom and support children in developing their musical interests and ambitions.

Staff Development

The Music Lead supports staff confidence and subject knowledge through curriculum guidance, resource sharing and collaboration.

The school works closely with Bromley Youth Music Trust to access advice, professional development opportunities and support for improving music teaching.

Staff are encouraged to engage with relevant music training and development opportunities to continue strengthening musical experiences across the school.

Partnerships Supporting Curriculum Music

St Philomena's works closely with Bromley Youth Music Trust, our local music hub.

BYMT provides:

- Advice and support for music development.
- Links to local musical opportunities.
- Access to wider musical experiences.
- Support with instrumental pathways.
- Opportunities to collaborate with other schools across Bromley.

The school also uses high-quality resources including Sing Up and Young Voices materials to support singing development and musical progression.

Co-Curricular Music Provision

At St Philomena's, we believe that opportunities beyond curriculum lessons are essential in developing confident and passionate young musicians.

Instrumental Tuition

Pupils have access to a range of instrumental tuition including:

- Piano.
- Flute.
- Violin.

Through instrumental lessons, pupils are encouraged to work towards ABRSM and Trinity graded examinations where appropriate.

The school works with visiting instrumental tutors and supports children in developing their skills as individual musicians.

Whole class instrumental opportunities also form an important part of our commitment to accessibility. Recorder tuition and ukulele tuition in allow every child to experience playing an instrument as part of their musical education without any cost.

School Choir

Our school choir provides pupils with the opportunity to develop vocal skills, confidence and teamwork.

The choir is open to pupils from Year 3 upwards and participation is free of charge.

The choir performs regularly at:

- School Masses.
- Assemblies.
- Church services.
- Community events.
- Local musical celebrations.

The choir has participated in:

- Young Voices at the O2 Arena.
- Bromley Youth Music Trust events.
- Local choir competitions.
- Performances in significant venues including Fairfield Halls and Southwark Cathedral when opportunities arise.

School Orchestra and Ensembles

Our school orchestra provides opportunities for pupils across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to develop ensemble skills.

Children of different ages and abilities work together to rehearse, perform and develop confidence as musicians.

The orchestra performs at school events including Christmas and summer performances and provides opportunities for pupils to share their musical achievements with the wider school community.

Partnerships Supporting Co-Curricular Music

Rocksteady provides pupils with opportunities to develop modern band skills, including singing, guitar, keyboards and drums.

For pupil premium pupils, the school funds places to enable them to experience instrumental learning, teamwork and performing.

St Philomena's works closely with Bromley Youth Music Trust to access musical opportunities across the borough, including collaborative concerts and events with other schools.

The school is a Music Mark school and values the professional development opportunities, networking and support available through this partnership.

In 2026, the Music Lead was recognised through the Music Mark "This Is Not A Rehearsal" Sustainability Award, celebrating innovative approaches to developing sustainable music

education. This reflects the school's commitment to ensuring that music remains a valued, accessible and evolving part of school life.

Musical Experiences

At St Philomena's, we believe children should experience music as performers, listeners and participants.

Throughout the academic year, pupils take part in a wide range of musical experiences.

Assemblies, Masses and Whole-School Singing

All pupils participate in weekly hymn practice and regular singing opportunities. Music forms an important part of a wide range of celebrations, liturgical and whole-school events throughout the year. Through these experiences, pupils develop confidence in singing, learn a diverse repertoire of sacred and secular music, and experience the important role that music plays in bringing our school community together.

Pupils regularly engage in musical opportunities at Southwark Cathedral, including Advent and Easter services, performing alongside pupils from other Catholic schools.

Concerts and Performances

Music performances are a significant part of school life.

Each year pupils participate in:

- Key Stage 1 Christmas productions.
- Key Stage 2 Easter productions.
- Key Stage 2 summer productions.
- Class musical performances throughout the year.
- Christmas concerts.
- Summer concerts.

These events allow pupils to experience performing to an audience and celebrate their musical achievements.

Young Voices

The school choir takes part annually in Young Voices at the O2 Arena.

Pupils work over many months to learn songs, choreography and performance skills before joining thousands of children from across the country in a large-scale professional concert.

This opportunity allows pupils to experience performing alongside professional musicians and artists and has become an important annual tradition at St Philomena's.

Theatre and Cultural Experiences

The choir takes part in fundraising activities to support theatre visits and cultural experiences.

These opportunities allow children to experience professional performances, develop aspirations and understand the wider creative industries.

Future Development Priorities

St Philomena's is committed to continuing to develop a high-quality music provision.

What?	How?	When by ?
To build upon whole school instrumental tuition allowing every school pupil access to a musical instrument.	Continuing whole class recorder lessons.	July 2027
Both the school orchestra and choir to take part in Bromley Youth Music Trust mass concerts Spring 2027	Application made to BYMT.	July 2027

Further Information

Our local music hub, Bromley Youth Music Trust, provides information about music tuition, ensembles and opportunities available to children and young people in the local area.

The Department for Education provides information for parents and young people about how families can support children's musical development beyond school.