Music Development Plan
St Mary's Catholic School, Penzance

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	November 17th 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Turner

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.

Music at St Mary's is taught in all classes from Nursery to Year 6. We aim to develop the understanding in music through a wide range of teaching styles. These include actions and dance, whole class work, small group work and independent work. Staff work together to ensure that music progression is evident throughout the school and pupils build on what they have been taught in the previous years.

Our music curriculum allows:

- Pupils to develop their performance skills through learning to play tuned and untuned instruments, singing a variety of songs and rehearsing/performing with

others.

- Pupils to develop their composing skills through creating musical patterns and exploring/organising sounds and learning to record these in various ways. ● Pupils to learn to analyse and compare sounds, explore ideas and make improvements to their work, building on their appraising skills.
- Pupils to learn to listen with increased concentration to internalise and recall sounds.

At St Mary's we follow the Charanga music scheme, with a half-termly focus-based approach to support teachers in engaging all of our pupils during music lessons. These lessons include a variety of adult lead and child-initiated activities. Each unit of work has a cross curricular focus and a musical focus, which allows pupils to progress throughout their primary school experience. Children with SEND are individually supported in class depending on their various requirements, for example: use of ear defenders when music lessons are louder than average, teacher's ability to differentiate their lessons and use planning to challenge all pupils depending on their ability.

We have taken into consideration the model music curriculum recommendations (2021) and ensure all pupils are taught 1 hour per week or equivalent and our Year 3 class will be taught to play a musical instrument: the recorder. At St Mary's, we understand the importance and joy music can bring to the young children we teach.

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.

At St Mary's we offer guitar and violin tuition to pupils, these instrumental lessons are taught by teachers from the music hub. We are exploring some funding options to allow more children the opportunity to play an instrument.

There is a school choir that rehearses together once a week during a lunch time. The school choir have plenty of opportunities to perform including in assemblies, visits to

care homes, Christmas markets etc.
A group of children from St Mary's are taken to perform in Songfest once a year, this performance is held at St John's Hall.

We have regular contact with Humphry Davy School who often visit us and perform for us. We have had several workshops with HDS who have worked with our children, leading singing ensembles etc.

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.

We have one hymn/singing assembly weekly for all pupils to attend in Key Stage one and Key Stage two. A mixture of traditional hymns and modern songs are taught and sang collectively during this time. We have a timetable whereby songs are repeated to build pupil confidence and knowledge of songs. This is where we rehearse our hymns for our weekly 'celebration of the word' assemblies. Pupils at St Mary's gain a lot of enjoyment from this approach.
At the end of each half term, children perform through either singing or playing an instrument they have learnt over the past 5-6 weeks. This can be as part of an assembly or a performance to another class. Pupils experience performing to a small audience and gain confidence and pride before performing to the whole school and/or parents and family members.
We endeavour to make links with the local secondary school whereby secondary pupils can perform to our pupils and both schools can work collaboratively. The music subject lead continues to search to invite local live performances to school or to visit concerts in the local area. Last year we had a visit from Will Keating and he performed with our children in a Cornish performance in an assembly.
The children have weekly Cornish lessons and are regularly learning and performing Cornish songs.

The year 5 and 6 children have the chance to perform in a musical production at the end of the school year. This really helps to build the children's confidence and showcases all of their musical learning throughout primary school.

In the future

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

We plan to make some strong and lasting links with other music venues to enable our pupils to have a widened experience of live music in a range of contexts. The subject lead teacher is currently researching new schemes of work on offer to support staff in delivering the best possible music education to our pupils. We plan to continue to grow pupil confidence in singing as part of a choir so they feel they can perform to their peers and families more regularly.
We aim to continue to build a stronger link with our feeder secondary school so that we can start music ensembles and choirs with the older children.