Music Development Plan for Holy Rood Catholic Primary School 2025 – 2026

Detail	Information
Academic Year that this plan covers	2025 2026
Date this plan was published	3rd September 2025
Date this plan will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of school music lead	Rita Palmar (curriculum) Nicky Kingsley (performance)
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music School based at the Watford School of Music
Name of other music education organisations	ASCAT Music partnerships both primary and secondary schools
	Electric Umbrella

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School we deliver music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences. The following 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.

Curriculum Music

Music is an important part of our school curriculum, where children have the opportunity to participate in weekly one hour lessons using the Charanga Music Scheme. Within the scheme, children learn musical concepts through song and playing instruments and can access a range of different types of music. The children explore creating music individually and collaboratively through whole-class ensemble teaching in most year groups. Our music room is well stocked with instruments to support the curriculum including recorders, percussion instruments and xylophones. Staff have regular training from the Charanga teachers to ensure our music tuition is of the highest quality.

Our EYFS children begin to enjoy music through the Boogie Mites music programme as well as additional groups offered to those children with additional needs. These lessons have become a hub of excitement and fun as children explore instruments and singing songs with rhythm and body percussion. All staff are trained by Boogie Mites teachers to ensure high quality of teaching.

Our partnership with the Hertfordshire School of Music supports our curriculum music by providing cornet teachers to our Year 3 children, to enhance the overall musical knowledge for all children, including those that require additional support. This tuition is free for all children.

Our collaboration with the Electric Umbrella Company creates a passion in all our children to enjoy song and to make music despite our backgrounds or circumstances. The children have opportunities to create their own musical instruments as a part of this programme.

Co-Curricular Music

At Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, our children can learn piano with peripatetic teachers and includes both one-to-one tuition and some ensemble teaching. We have a dedicated music room for music lessons where children can also access the piano. Here the children may decide to take music examinations. Extra funding is available for our pupil premium children should they wish to take up an instrument.

We regularly advertise extra-curricular music lessons at the Watford School of Music or local music tuition hubs where many of our children have music lessons to further extend their love of music and take music examinations. These children have the opportunity of playing in our annual talent shows either to their class friends or the whole school. This includes string, woodwind, and brass instruments.

We have an active school choir which is open to children in years 4 to 6. The children rehearse for half an hour each week in addition to our weekly singing assembly. The choir performs at our annual Key Stage 2 carol concert as well as twice a year outing to local care homes and the Rosary Priory in Aldenham. These have become a highlight for all the children. In addition to these experiences, our school choir has regularly been chosen to form a part of the mass choir 'Sing Up' Gala produced by Hertfordshire Music each year at the Royal Albert Hall. The choir was also privileged to be asked to sing at our ASCAT governor's conference in June 2024. This was a wonderful collaboration of music between both primary and secondary schools.

Musical Experiences

Throughout the year at Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, the children engage in a wealth of musical experiences. Each week the children take part in singing assembly where they ejoy learning a range of songs that are included in assemblies, liturgical services, Mass and class assemblies.

Leading up to Christmas the children learn songs to perform to parents and carers as part of our Nativity performances, Crib blessings and our beautiful Carol Service at Holy Rood Catholic Church in Watford.

The children in Year 4 take part in an Easter production which includes many songs to perform to their parents and carers and the whole school and our Year 3 children take part in a cornet performance to their parents following the end of their tuition.

The Cultural Diversity Day in May allows children to explore music from around the world and widens their world view. Likewise, French Day is a day learning French songs and enjoying French music. Our partnership with St Joan of Arc Secondary School, supports each class in learning French songs.

In addition to the above, we regularly enjoy musicians at assemblies where the children are given opportunities to learn different music for example hearing a rock band perform.

In the Future

With our partnerships in our ASCAT Trust, there are opportunities to take our children to experience other music in our schools and our hope is that these connections will continue to grow and develop to enable our children to have more exposure to different types of music.

We would like to look at including a termly whole school concert to highlight the gifted and talented children learning musical instruments as well as including some class performances of our curriculum music. This would ensure all children become confident performers and share their skill with others.

This year we are hoping to engage with more instrumental teaching for example learning electric guitar or drums to ensure children who would like to learn these types of instruments have the opportunity to do so.