

Music development plan summary: St Albans CVA

At St Alban's Catholic Voluntary Academy, we are committed to providing a high-quality music education that enables all pupils to develop their musical knowledge, skills and appreciation. Through a broad and progressive curriculum, enriched by performance opportunities, singing, instrumental tuition and participation in liturgy and wider school life, pupils are encouraged to develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of music. This summary outlines our current music provision and our plans for further development over the next three years.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2028
Name of the school music lead	Louise Franik
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Derby music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Katie Woodwright

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.

At St Albans CVA, all pupils receive a broad and progressive music education that develops their confidence, creativity and enjoyment of music. Our curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and provides opportunities for pupils to listen,

sing, compose, perform and play instruments. We work in partnership with Derbyshire music hub support high-quality music provision across the school.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), music is embedded throughout the continuous provision and daily learning experiences. Children explore sounds, rhythms and musical patterns through singing, action songs, nursery rhymes, musical games and the use of a range of percussion instruments. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with instruments, develop their listening skills and express themselves creatively through music.

In Key Stage 1, pupils receive weekly music lessons taught by a specialist music teacher. Lessons focus on the foundation blocks of music through singing, body percussion, rhythm work, listening activities and early performance skills, helping pupils to develop a secure understanding of pulse, rhythm and pitch.

In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils participate in whole-class instrumental tuition. During the first part of the year, pupils learn to play the recorder before progressing to the ukulele in the second part of the year. These lessons develop pupils' understanding of notation, rhythm, pitch and ensemble performance.

In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils take part in the Wider Opportunities programme delivered by specialist teachers from Derbyshire music hub. Over a two-year cycle, pupils learn to play glockenspiels and drums, gaining experience of performing as part of an ensemble and developing their musical knowledge and skills.

We are committed to ensuring that music is inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Children with SEND are supported to participate fully in all aspects of the music curriculum and wider musical opportunities. In addition, eligible pupils have the opportunity to participate in an inclusive online choir led by SEND music specialists from across the East Midlands. This provides a nurturing environment where pupils can develop their confidence, communication skills and enjoyment of music through singing and performance.

Through our partnerships with Derbyshire music hub and specialist music practitioners, all pupils have access to high-quality vocal and instrumental music education. This ensures clear progression from musical exploration in EYFS through to whole-class instrumental performance and ensemble playing in Key Stage 2.

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.

St Albans offers opportunities for pupils to extend their musical learning beyond the classroom. In addition to curriculum music, pupils have the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition through visiting music teachers. Lessons are available on a one-to-one or two-to-one basis in violin, piano and guitar. These lessons provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their musical skills further, build confidence as performers and make sustained progress on their chosen instrument.

Pupils in Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 can join our Young Voices Choir. Choir rehearsals take place every Tuesday after school and prepare pupils to participate in the annual Young Voices concert. The school subsidises the majority of the cost of the Young Voices experience to ensure that as many pupils as possible can take part.

The choir provides pupils with opportunities to develop their singing skills, perform as part of a large-scale choir and experience live music alongside thousands of other children from across the country.

The school works closely with Derbyshire Music Hub and specialist music teachers to support high-quality music provision and provide progression routes for pupils with a particular interest in music

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.

Music plays an important role in the life of St Albans CVA and enhances both the curriculum and wider school community. Pupils regularly engage with music through assemblies, Collective Worship, liturgies, class prayer and school Masses, where singing is used to support prayer, reflection and celebration.

Throughout the year, pupils have opportunities to perform for a range of audiences. These include class assemblies, Christmas performances, liturgical celebrations and other whole-school events. Such experiences help children develop confidence, performance skills and an appreciation of music as a means of expression.

Pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in the annual Young Voices concert. Through weekly choir rehearsals, children prepare to perform as part of one of the largest children's choirs in the world, providing them with an exciting opportunity to perform in a large arena alongside thousands of other pupils. The school subsidises the majority of the cost to ensure this experience is accessible to as many children as possible.

Pupils learning instruments through Derby Music Hub's Wider Opportunities programme are also given opportunities to perform as part of whole-class ensemble

work, celebrating their musical achievements with peers, staff and families. Our partnership with Derby music hub</Name of local music hub> supports pupils in experiencing high-quality musical performance and participation throughout their time at St Albans.

In the future

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

Over the next two years, St Albans CVA aims to further develop and strengthen its music provision to ensure all pupils have access to a rich and varied musical education. We will continue to build on our successful partnership with Derby Music Hub and maintain specialist music teaching across the school.

Our priorities include:

- Continue to invest in specialist music teaching in Key Stage 1 to ensure pupils develop strong foundations in musical knowledge, skills and enjoyment from an early age. Building on the success of our current provision, we will maintain access to a music specialist to support high-quality teaching, raise pupil engagement and strengthen progression across the music curriculum.
- Continuing our whole-class instrumental tuition programme in Lower and Upper Key Stage 2.
- Maintaining opportunities for pupils to learn violin, piano and guitar through one-to-one and two-to-one tuition.
- Sustaining and growing participation in the Young Voices choir, ensuring that as many pupils as possible can benefit from this large-scale performance experience.
- Further developing inclusive music opportunities for pupils with SEND, including participation in the East Midlands SEND online choir.
- Increasing opportunities for pupils to perform for parents, parishioners and the wider community through assemblies, liturgies, concerts and celebrations.
- Exploring additional opportunities for pupils to experience live music performances and workshops from visiting musicians.
- Continuing to develop staff confidence and expertise in delivering high-quality music teaching across all phases of the school.
- Develop stronger links with the wider musical community by signposting pupils and families to local music groups, ensembles, clubs, workshops and performance opportunities available through Derby Music Hub and other community organisations. This will support continued participation in music beyond the school day and encourage lifelong engagement with music.

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Through these developments, we aim to ensure that every child develops a love of music, gains confidence as a performer and experiences the joy of making music together

Further information (optional)

St Albans CVA works in partnership with Derby Music Hub</Name of local music hub> to provide high-quality music education and instrumental tuition opportunities for pupils. We are committed to ensuring that all children can access and participate in music, including those with SEND through specialist inclusive music opportunities.

Parents and carers wishing to find out more about instrumental lessons, Young Voices choir, or wider musical opportunities should contact the school office or the Music Lead. Information about local music opportunities and progression routes can also be found through Derbyshire Music Hub

At St Albans CVA, we believe that music is a powerful means of creativity, self-expression and community, and we are committed to providing opportunities for all pupils to develop a lifelong love of music.