

Music development plan summary: St. Ethelbert's RCP, Bolton

At St. Ethelbert's, our music curriculum is underpinned by the innovative *Sing Up* scheme of work, which has been meticulously designed to enhance pupils' learning outcomes. The scheme's approach fosters progression in fundamental musical techniques, enabling pupils to develop proficiency in various areas such as singing, playing instruments and musical composition.

The scheme ensures that our pupils are exposed to a range of musical genres, enriching their musical knowledge and appreciation. Through exploration of influential composers and their works, pupils are able to develop a deeper understanding of the impact of music throughout history.

The Sing Up scheme provides our pupils with highly engaging, stimulating and interactive lessons. The scheme also provides effective support for our teachers, so that they can nurture our pupils' musical abilities and foster a lifelong appreciation of music.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	2 nd February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st February 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jill Haslam
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service

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.

To read about our music curriculum in greater detail, please visit our website:

[Music - St Ethelbert's RC Primary School - Bolton](#)

Music is taught by class teachers from Nursery to Year 6 and is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021). In EYFS, lessons are delivered in short blocks of about twenty minutes, whilst in Years 1-6, pupils typically receive lessons of a minimum of 45 minutes per week. Teaching is supported by the *Sing Up* curriculum scheme of work. Our provision is further supplemented by other activities such as singing assemblies and masses which range from 30 minutes to an hour in length. Singing is also integrated into other areas of the curriculum to support pupils' long-term memory – for example, to remember the names of different rocks in science, or to support recall of Roman numerals in maths.

Pupils in Y4 learn to play the recorder. This is taught by the class teacher, using the *Sing Up* scheme.

Every child in the school has the opportunity to take part in at least one performance in front of an audience per academic year.

Ongoing assessment during each unit of work is used to inform a termly assessment, where teachers can make judgements about a child's understanding of fundamental music concepts; their proficiency in music performance, and their overall confidence in musical expression.

SEND pupils are fully supported in music lessons and will participate in the same activity alongside their peers, with support from a member of staff or additional scaffolding.

Part B: Extra-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.

Pupils from Year 2 upwards have the opportunity to join our school choir if they so wish. The choir meets on a weekly basis and is led by Mrs Haslam, our Music subject leader. At choir sessions, pupils are able to tackle more challenging pieces outside of our general scheme of work. The choir has a high profile in school, regularly performing to the rest of the pupils and to parents and the wider community in assemblies and whole school masses.

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.

Pupils perform or experience music in the following ways:

- Singing worship assemblies
- Weekly assemblies, including class assemblies
- Classroom collective worship
- Whole school and class masses
- Annual talent show
- Annual Christmas productions (Nursery-Y6)
- Singing at the local care home
- Rock Kidz

In the future

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

- Further development of staff subject knowledge as the Sing Up scheme is embedded
- Develop links with primary & secondary schools within the Trust
- Increase opportunities for our children to watch concerts and events – e.g. through developing links with the Royal Opera House

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Bolton Music Service provides a wide range of weekly lessons for both instruments and voice, which can be accessed in and out of school. Please see the link below.

[Parents & Pupils | Bolton Music Service](#)