

Music development plan summary: Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Sophie Bland
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Gill
Name of local music hub	Plymouth Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady

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

Holy Cross provides a comprehensive and engaging music education that fosters students' musical abilities and appreciation from a young age. Through a structured program that combines innovative digital platforms, hands-on instrumental learning, and performance opportunities, we ensure that students develop both technical skills and a love for music.

One of the core components of our music curriculum is the weekly 45 minute lessons using the Charanga platform. Charanga is a modern and interactive digital resource designed to deliver a progressive music education. It offers a wide range of resources, including interactive exercises, video tutorials, and diverse musical genres, which cater to different learning styles and abilities. By leveraging this platform, we provide a well-rounded music education that covers fundamental concepts such as rhythm, melody, harmony, and dynamics. The engaging content keeps students motivated and interested, and the structured progression ensures that they build a solid foundation in music theory and practice.

In addition to the digital platform, we offer hands-on learning experiences, such as ukulele lessons for Year 4 and 4 students. The ukulele is an excellent introductory instrument due to its manageable size and relatively simple chord structures, making it ideal for young

learners. Through these lessons, students not only learn to play an instrument but also develop important skills such as hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and the ability to read musical notation. Learning an instrument also teaches perseverance and the value of practice, as students see their skills improve over time. Children have the opportunity to build on the skills acquired in Year 3 when they move to Year 4.

Our commitment to music education is reflected in the enthusiasm of our students. By integrating digital learning tools, practical instrumental training, and performance opportunities, we ensure that music education at Holy Cross is both comprehensive and enjoyable. The use of Charanga keeps lessons dynamic and engaging, while ukulele instruction in Year 3/4 provides a tangible skill that students can build upon.

In conclusion, Holy Cross provides a robust music education program that balances theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and performance experience. Our use of the Charanga platform ensures that students receive a modern and engaging music education, while ukulele lessons and performance opportunities foster their practical abilities and confidence. Through these efforts, we have created a vibrant musical environment where students can explore their creativity, develop their talents, and gain a lifelong appreciation for music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Holy Cross, we are dedicated to providing students with ample opportunities to engage in music and singing beyond regular lesson times. Our commitment to fostering a love for music is evident in the various extracurricular activities and performance opportunities we offer. Through school productions, participation in Rock Steady bands, and singing in the choir at different masses at the Cathedral, we ensure that students can pursue their musical interests and develop their talents in diverse settings.

One of the primary ways we encourage musical participation outside of lesson time is through our school productions. These productions offer students a chance to perform in front of their peers, teachers, and parents, allowing them to showcase their singing and instrumental skills. Participating in school productions helps students build confidence, learn to work collaboratively, and experience the joy of performing. These events are often highlights of the school year and provide a platform for students to demonstrate their hard work and dedication to music.

In addition to school productions, we offer opportunities for students to join bands through the Rock Steady program. Rock Steady is an innovative music education program that allows students to form bands and learn to play instruments such as the guitar, drums, keyboard, and vocals. This program is designed to make music accessible and fun, encouraging students to develop their skills in a supportive and creative environment. Each term, the Rock Steady bands put on a show, giving students the chance to perform contemporary music for an audience. These performances are a great way for students to experience the excitement of playing in a band, build teamwork skills, and gain valuable performance experience.

Singing is another crucial aspect of our music program, and we provide students with opportunities to join the school choir. The choir participates in various events, including singing at different masses at the Cathedral. These performances are not only a chance for students to improve their vocal skills but also an opportunity to be part of a larger community. Singing at the Cathedral allows students to experience the beauty and reverence of sacred music, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of different musical traditions. The choir's participation in Masses also fosters a sense of responsibility and commitment, as students prepare for and contribute to these significant events.

These extracurricular music opportunities at Holy Cross are designed to complement our regular music lessons and provide students with a well-rounded musical education. By participating in school productions, Rock Steady bands, and the choir, students can explore different aspects of music, from singing and playing instruments to performing in various settings. These experiences help to develop their musical abilities, boost their confidence, and cultivate a lifelong love for music.

In conclusion, Holy Cross excels in providing students with numerous opportunities to sing and play music outside of lesson time. Through our school productions, Rock Steady bands, and choir performances at the Cathedral, we ensure that students can engage in meaningful musical activities that enhance their skills and enrich their educational experience. These opportunities not only nurture students' musical talents but also foster important life skills such as teamwork, confidence, and dedication. At Holy Cross, we are proud to offer a vibrant and supportive environment where students can thrive and grow as musicians.

Part C: Musical experiences.

At Holy Cross, we are committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive musical culture that engages students across all year groups. Our musical experiences are designed to encourage participation, celebrate talent, and create memorable experiences for our school community. Throughout last year, we have organised a wide range of music events, allowing all children to participate.

Singing in Worship (including Mass):

- **Frequency:** Daily
- **Year Groups Involved:** All year groups
- **Details:** Singing is an integral part of our worship sessions, with all students participating.

Prayer and Praise Sessions:

- **Frequency:** Weekly
- **Year Groups Involved:** All year groups

- **Details:** These sessions combine reflective prayer with uplifting music, allowing students to express their spirituality through song.

Talent Show:

- **Frequency:** End of year
- **Year Groups Involved:** All year groups
- **Details:** The talent shows are a highlight of the school calendar, offering students the opportunity to showcase their musical skills, whether singing, playing instruments, or performing in bands. Participation is open to all.

Rock Steady Concerts:

- **Frequency:** Termly
- **Year Groups Involved:** All children participating in Rock Steady music sessions
- **Details:** Students from Year 1 upwards who participate in weekly Rock Steady sessions perform in these concerts. These concerts highlight the diverse musical talent within our school and are performed to the whole school community, including parents.

Christmas Carol Concert:

- **Frequency:** Annually in December
- **Year Groups Involved:** KS2 children
- **Details:** The Christmas Carol concert is a beloved tradition where students from KS2 come together to perform classic carols and hymns. Parents are warmly invited to join in the festivities.

Lord Mayor's Concert:

- **Frequency:** Annually
- **Year Groups Involved:** Selected students from KS2
- **Details:** Selected students represent Holy Cross at the prestigious Lord Mayor's Concert. This event is a significant opportunity for our young musicians to perform in a larger public setting.

Holy Cross Music Extravaganza:

- **Frequency:** Annually in the Summer term
- **Year Groups Involved:** All year groups
- **Details:** This grand event is the culmination of the year's musical efforts, involving performances by students from all year groups and parents who wish to show off their musical talents. The show often includes a variety of performances, from choir pieces to solo acts, and parents/family community who wish to share their talents. It's a celebration of the talent within Holy Cross and their families and a highlight for students, staff and parents.

In the future

At Holy Cross, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music curriculum and co-curricular musical experiences to ensure that our students receive a high-quality and well-rounded musical education. In alignment with the 7 features of high-quality music provision, we have outlined several improvements that we plan to implement over the coming years:

- Increase in Music Lesson Time- This will be indicated by each class on their timetables and monitored by Mrs Bland.
- Ukulele lessons in Year 3/4- Expanding the range of instruments available for students to learn will support **Breadth of Study** and **Progression**, offering students opportunities to develop skills in new areas and to progress their musical abilities.
- School Performances- Regular performances will foster **Performance Opportunities** and **Inclusion** by encouraging participation from all students, showcasing their progress, and building confidence in a supportive environment.
- Increased Focus on Cultural Diversity in Music- Incorporating diverse musical traditions aligns with **Inclusion** and **Breadth of Study**, helping students to appreciate music from different cultures and to develop a global perspective on music.
- Parental Engagement in Music Education- Engaging parents in music education supports **Community Engagement** and **Inclusion**, creating a stronger school community and enhancing students' musical experiences through family involvement.

By implementing these improvements, Holy Cross aims to ensure that our music provision not only meets but exceeds the standards of high-quality music education, providing all students with rich, varied, and inclusive musical experiences that will inspire and engage them throughout their time at our school.