

# Music Development Plan Summary

## St Fidelis Catholic Primary School



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Catholic Social Teaching is the moral compass that guides us in how to live out our faith in the world.

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**The dignity of  
work and  
participation &  
Common Good**



St Fidelis promotes the Common Good and Dignity of Work and Participation by offering a bespoke, inclusive music curriculum. Providing diverse instrumental tuition and free co-curricular activities ensures all children can develop their God-given gifts.

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	March 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Paul Robinson
Name of local music hub	Bexley Music Education Hub

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.

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School is proud to be one of three schools in Bexley (and the only primary school) that has the status of South East London Music Hub Lead School. The school delivers training for other schools to support the development of music provision for children across the local area.



## 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 is a central part of our school curriculum here at St Fidelis.

We believe in the value of a broad and balanced curriculum that develops all our children's God given gifts.

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all children are introduced to a wide range of percussion instruments in order to embed the central concepts of tempo, dynamics, pitch, pulse, rhythm and timbre. This is achieved through singing songs and using the percussion instruments to consolidate their understanding of these main concepts.

Progressing from this broad foundation all children then specialise in the skills needed to master the following instruments:

- Year 3 Glockenspiels
- Year 4 Djembe Drums
- Year 5 Keyboards
- Year 6 Steel pans.

Each week a significant proportion of the school timetable is set aside for music in all its forms:

- 30 minute weekly music lesson in YR to Y3
- 45 minute weekly music lesson in Y4 to Y6
- 30 minutes singing practice for each Key Stage.

Our music curriculum is bespoke to our school and has been created by one of our teachers with a music specialism.

Further information about our school's music curriculum offer can be found on our school website:

- [www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/curriculum/music/](http://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/curriculum/music/)

## 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 Fidelis, singing is a part of what makes our school special:

- All children sing weekly as part of the infant or junior singing lessons.

- Many children are part of the school's choir that practises after school (currently 47.5% of KS2)
- Many children sing as part of the school's choir at special events and celebrations such as School Mass and music festivals.

At St Fidelis, children have additional opportunities beyond the school's taught music curriculum to develop their individual musical skills through one-to-one, small group and large group tuition in a wide range of instruments which currently consists of:

- Drum kit.
- Piano.
- Violin.
- Guitar.
- French Horn.
- Trumpet.
- Trombone.

At St Fidelis, children also have opportunities to progress further by involvement in:

- Orchestra.
- Steel pan band(s).
- Djembe group.

Access for children in particular circumstances are taken into account by the school:

- A number of our children take part in holiday courses run by the Bexley Music Education Hub, and following these courses, join one of the ensembles run by the Hub. We currently have children in the beginner and intermediate orchestras at Bexley Music.
- We offer tuition on all orchestral instruments as well as guitar, drum kit and piano, through our partnership with the Bexley Music Education Hub and those children who then learn to play an instrument are regularly entered for either the ABRSM (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) or Trinity instrumental exams with advice from the instrumental teacher.
- The school is charged termly for these lessons by Bexley Music and this cost is passed onto parents/carers. However, each year, scholarships are available through Bexley Music and the Rotary Club and we nominate children who show a positive aptitude and who are making excellent progress. This will then cover the cost of instrument hire, lessons and participation in an ensemble run by the Education Hub.
- Where children need an instrument to use, these are normally hired by families through Bexley Music for an annual fee. We also get instruments donated to the school by past students/families and these are given to children who need them more.
- The school does pay for instrumental tuition for pupil premium children and does, where possible, support families financially with their tuition fees.

- Children can audition for our KS2 choir and are expected to attend an hour's practice on a Thursday or Friday. Children are also invited to join the school orchestra, in collaboration with the instrumental teacher, when they can play 5 notes and they practise on a Thursday and Friday lunchtime. We have 2, KS2 steel bands and as these are both currently full, children can ask to be added to a waiting list. Where places do become available, children who might be pupil premium or might not be engaged in any other 'extra-curricular' activities are given priority. There is also a secondary students steel band which consists entirely of children from St. Fidelis who have been in one of the KS2 bands and then come back in their own time to continue. We have a Yr 4 Djembe drum group and these children join after asking to take part. This group practises on a Wednesday lunchtime. All these 'extra-curricular' activities are free to families. If some children would benefit from individual practice in the steel bands and Djembe group, an instrument can be made available to use at home, in collaboration with families. Every child has the opportunity to practise as a small group or individually within the normal ensemble rehearsal time.
- We work very closely with our local Education Hub (Bexley Music) and we support each other in many ways through this strong partnership: we encourage our children to take part in the many events and courses run by the Hub and see a good number attending, provide children to perform for the Hub in their annual Festival of Music ( we regularly have the largest number of children from any Bexley Primary school taking part) and 15 of our school choir (half of the Bexley Music choir) sang for the Kings Christmas speech last Christmas.
- The Hub also supports us as a school through providing instrumental teachers and music when required, providing instruments where required and supporting with any professional development if required.

## 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.

At St Fidelis there are frequent opportunities across the school year to perform in assemblies, liturgies, concerts, shows and performances:

- Weekly school assembly.
- Reception, Year 1 & 2 Nativity Production.
- Year 3 Easter Passion Production.
- Year 6 Summer Production.
- KS2 Carol Service.
- Bexley Catholic Schools Corpus Christi Choral Festival.
- Christmas and Summer Concerts.
- Music Festivals.

- Involvement with outside professional organisations like the LSO, Southbank and LSO Gamelan and the Old Vic Intergenerational concerts.

For the coming academic year, we will be doing all of the above. For the LSO and Old Vic projects, we have to apply and as we have taken part in these in previous years and in our feedback to them have said how beneficial the children found the experience, we are hopeful that we will get the opportunity again. Another Gamelan workshop for our Yr 4 children will be happening.

We are also planning to organise a theatre trip so that our children can have a different experience of live music performance. This would be a chargeable activity for families although cheaper as a school group rate.

These projects are all free to the children.

We have also been given the Music Mark award through our Bexley Music Hub over the last 3 years in recognition of the work we do at school and in association with the Hub.

## In the future

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

We will continue to evaluate the music curriculum we provide and the many musical opportunities available to our children, ensuring that they have as many performing and listening opportunities as possible. What we currently do is very successful so we will continue with what we do and add what becomes available if it benefits our children.

## 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 for support beyond the school.

Local Music Hub

- Bexley Music Education Hub
- [info@bexley-music.co.uk](mailto:info@bexley-music.co.uk)
- [www.bexley-music.co.uk](http://www.bexley-music.co.uk)