

Music development plan summary: The Marist Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	December 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2026
Name of the school music lead	Fionna Starritt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Anastasia Wright
Name of local music hub	Surrey Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Music Mark

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.

The music curriculum at The Marist Catholic Primary School ensures that children actively engage in singing, listening, playing, performing, and evaluating music. This is seamlessly integrated into classroom learning through a specially chosen, complete music programme of study 'Kapow', following the National Music Curriculum. Additionally, students participate in weekly singing assemblies, instrument lessons, concerts, Masses, and performances. They also have opportunities to join various music clubs and take instrumental lessons. As a Music Mark school, The Marist is recognised for its commitment to delivering high-quality music education to all students.

All children at The Marist receive full-class music lessons from an experienced Music Specialist for one hour every two weeks. These lessons introduce the elements of music, enabling students to use relevant musical language to understand, analyse, and appreciate how music is created and performed. Key aspects of music are

also taught through cross-curricular links, and students learn how to compose, including using technology, with a focus on various dimensions of music, including notation. This foundation enhances their ability to listen to, play, and analyse music.

The curriculum also emphasizes composing and performing using body percussion and voice, which helps students develop an understanding of musical elements without the complexity of an instrument. As part of their music education at The Marist, students learn to play the recorder (Year 3), ukulele (Year 4), and Boom-whackers (Year 6). They also have the opportunity to explore a variety of other tuned and un-tuned instruments from EYFS onward, as well as experiment with music technology through platforms like Incredibox (Year 5).

The history of music is a key component of the curriculum, emphasized through our listening and appraising activities. In each lesson, children listen to and appraise a different piece of music, exploring its historical context. These pieces are selected from a wide range of historical periods, styles, traditions, and genres, with the aim of developing and expanding each child's musical vocabulary, whilst supporting the importance of diversity.

Music: A Curriculum Supporting All Pupils:

- At The Marist, we create a music-making environment where all pupils feel confident to explore, experiment, and 'make mistakes,' which is essential for developing and refining their musical skills and knowledge.
- We incorporate a variety of multi-sensory approaches in each music lesson (singing, moving, playing instruments, composing) to ensure that all children can engage with their preferred learning style. Whenever possible, we provide hands-on opportunities for students to interact with instruments.
- Younger pupils benefit from the use of puppets, characters, props, and pictures, which add an extra dimension to their learning experience.
- When playing tuned percussion, we simplify the instrument by removing unnecessary notes or adding stickers to reduce distractions and help students focus.
- We provide advance notice of clubs and enrichment activities, including music, to FSM and Looked After Children, and we work to identify and direct them to free or supported instrumental and club provisions both internally and through Surrey Arts.
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Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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 The Marist, students are encouraged to join a musical group of their choice to enhance their musical journey. In Key Stage 1, children can participate in the Key Stage 1 Musical Club, which focuses on developing their singing and performing skills through musical theatre. They are also invited to join a recorder club alongside Key Stage 2 students, which is managed by external providers. Key Stage 2 students have the opportunity to join the popular Chamber Choir, which meets weekly and performs regularly throughout the year; in 2024, the choir boasted over 50 members. Additionally, the EYFS students can participate in a music club, also led by external providers.

The Marist also offers a music theory club designed to support students preparing for exams and to enhance their musicianship. The clubs at The Marist include both free and paid options, with subsidies available for families who may need financial assistance.

Moreover, The Marist partners with Surrey Arts to provide peripatetic lessons in piano, strings, percussion, woodwind, brass, guitar, and voice. These lessons, offered on a one-to-one or group basis, are organized directly between the family and Surrey Arts and are charged separately. However, there are options available for children on Free School Meals (FSM) and Looked After Children.

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 The Marist, children are provided with numerous opportunities to perform regularly, both within the school and in the wider community, as part of their musical education. From the Reception nativity and Christmas productions to performing for large audiences at the O2 in London, students are deeply engaged in a variety of musical experiences.

Singing is a core component of musical education at The Marist. All children actively participate in weekly Collective Worship through song, as well as in Masses and other events throughout the liturgical year. Additionally, children perform at collective class worships, which always feature a strong musical and singing element.

Every student at The Marist is given the chance to perform for a public audience at least once a year. Key events in the school calendar include the annual EYFS Nativity, the Key Stage 1 Nativity, the Key Stage 2 Advent Service, and the Lower

Key Stage 2 Pascal Play. Older students are invited to take on lead roles in these performances, giving them special responsibility during these important events.

The Advent performances at The Marist are a highlight of the academic year. All Reception children perform for a live audience after their first term at school. Years 1 and 2 collaborate on a Christmas production, with Year 2 taking the lead and Year 1 supporting with their own special songs. Students in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 perform a variety of carols and readings at the local parish church to a large audience, with opportunities for solos, duets, choir, and instrumental performances.

Children who take instrumental lessons and attend music clubs also have the opportunity to perform at a yearly Summer Music Concert, showcasing their learning and progress throughout the year.

An exciting highlight for Year 5 students is their opportunity to perform at the O2 in London as part of a 'Young Voices' choir of 9,000 children, singing alongside famous musicians and experiencing live performances.

Beyond school performances, all children have the opportunity to serve the local community through music, such as carol singing at a local care home, participating in local festivals, and performing at Sunday Masses in the parish.

For the past three years, The Marist has participated in the prestigious Xavier Musician of the Year event, where musicians from all Xavier Trust schools compete and inspire others for the title of Young Musician of the Year. This tradition will continue in 2024/2025, with two musicians from The Marist being selected to perform.

This rich array of performance opportunities and musical experiences nurtures a love of singing and performing while building confidence and self-esteem in our children. We believe these experiences instill a lifelong passion for music, ensuring that it remains an inspiring and engaging part of their lives. Our goal is to help each child maximize their musical potential and develop a deep, personal appreciation for the value of music.

In the future

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

Priorities for the future, whilst also focussing on all activities and experiences detailed above, are as follows:

- Continue to promote, expand, and enhance the various music clubs, instrumental, and vocal lessons available to Marist children, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full musical potential.
- Ensure that all disadvantaged students have equal access to every extracurricular offering, providing necessary support and resources to remove any barriers to participation.
- Foster a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child, regardless of background, can explore and develop their musical talents.
- Collaborate with families and external providers to offer a broad range of musical experiences, including workshops, performances, and events that inspire and engage all students.
- Continuously evaluate and adapt our musical programs to meet the evolving needs and interests of our students, ensuring that each child receives a well-rounded and enriching musical education.
- Encourage a culture of creativity and self-expression, where children feel confident to explore different musical genres and instruments.
- Build partnerships with local music organisations and artists to provide unique opportunities for students to learn from and be inspired by professionals in the field.

Further information

Xavier Catholic Education Trust: <https://www.xavercet.org.uk/>

Surrey Arts: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/arts>

Music Mark: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/about/>