

Music development plan summary: St Catharine's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Howard Ellacott
Name of local music hub	GSW Music Hub Consortium
Name of other music education organisation	Longborough Festival Opera Chipping Campden Music Festival

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. 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

At St Catharine's, pupils have the opportunity to learn how to sing and how to play the glockenspiel through engaging music lessons based on the Charanga music scheme and the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum. These lessons are designed to develop musical skills progressively, ensuring that pupils gain a solid foundation in both vocal and instrumental techniques. In Key Stage 2, children also take part in a dedicated brass unit taught by Andy Farrington as part of the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) Brass programme. The unit is delivered to a different Key Stage 2 year group each year; pupils currently in Years 5 and 6 have already completed it. Following the WCET sessions, children have the opportunity to continue developing their brass skills in small ensemble groups alongside their ongoing curriculum music lessons. As part of our curriculum, pupils regularly practise singing, glockenspiel and brass pieces, which they then have the chance to perform in front of their peers during music assemblies. These performances not only build confidence but also foster a sense of community and achievement within the school.

To see our detailed Curriculum overview, as well as our support for pupils with special educational needs (SEND), please click this link:

<https://www.st-catharines.gloucs.sch.uk/curriculum/music/>

Part B: Co-curricular music

Each week, pupils participate in specialist singing assemblies led by professionals, such as Richard Norris from Longborough Festival Opera. These sessions go beyond the core curriculum, offering pupils an enriching experience in vocal training and performance. This collaboration not only enhances their musical skills but also fosters a deeper appreciation for singing. Through these assemblies, pupils and staff gain confidence, creativity, and a unique opportunity to engage with the arts in a way that extends their learning and personal development beyond standard classroom activities.

Pupils can also access a variety of extracurricular music lessons offered by specialist teachers. Details of each teacher are outlined below:

Brass with Andy Farrington - andyfarrington@hotmail.co.uk

Andy leads the WCET Brass programme in KS2, funded by the Chipping Campden Music Festival. Pupils who show continued interest in brass can progress to small group lessons, which are also funded by the Festival.

Andy provides individual tuition across the school, offering lessons on trumpet, cornet, trombone, baritone, and euphonium. Parents can contact Andy directly if their child wishes to take brass lessons. For pupils who are unsure which instrument to choose, Andy can advise on the most suitable option. Lessons typically start from Year 3, although parents of Year 2 pupils are welcome to discuss options with him.

Music tuition costs £7.50 per week for group lessons and £10 per week for individual lessons. These are billed in blocks of 10 lessons at the start of each term (£75 for group lessons, £100 for individual lessons). Group lessons provide a fun and supportive introduction to brass and are recommended for beginners. There are 30 lessons evenly spread across the school year, meaning there is a session on most weeks. Parents are responsible for providing an instrument, which can be purchased or hired through Gloucestershire Music. Andy can arrange to collect the instruments.

www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/

Guitar with Martin Luckhurst - martinluckhurst@yahoo.co.uk

Martin runs guitar lessons throughout the term, in small groups. Payment is £6.50 per lesson (£78 for the term). The lessons are in groups of 3–5 and are 30 mins in length. If parents would like their child to take part in lessons this term, please get in touch with Martin directly via his email.

Woodwind with Rosy Crocker - rosycrocker.woodwind@gmail.com

Rosy teaches saxophone from Year 6, and clarinet and flute from Year 3.

Pupils will receive 30 lessons in each academic year. Some terms have more lessons and some fewer to fit in with the longer and shorter terms and other changes in the timetable. Lessons are £75 per pupil per 10 weeks (£7.50 per week). Parents will need to provide their child's instrument, which can be purchased or hired through Gloucestershire Music: www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk/instrument-hire/

Violin with Charles Matthews - charles.matthews655@gmail.com

Charles offers violin or viola lessons. For additional information, contact Charles; he will outline prices and dates.

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. Our school offers a rich and diverse range of musical experiences for all pupils.

Each year, our Year 6 pupils put on an end-of-year production, showcasing their talents and hard work. Younger pupils take part in the annual Christmas nativity, while KS2 pupils perform in carol services. In addition, pupils participate in other Christmas singing events, including performances at the town Christmas market, open-air carol services, and visits to local care homes. These festive performances bring cheer to the school and wider community while enriching pupils' musical and cultural experiences.

Through our collaboration with Longborough Festival Opera, Year 5 and 6 pupils have the unique opportunity to perform with professional opera singers at the Cider Mill Theatre. These experiences link music with English storytelling through song, and younger pupils also benefit by watching live opera performances, which they greatly enjoy.

The Chipping Campden Music Festival further enhances pupils' musical education through workshops led by professional musicians, often in preparation for performances at the Cider Mill Theatre. Recent workshops have included *Peter and the Wolf* (2024–2025) and *The Carnival of the Animals* (2025–2026). These workshops are very popular and broaden pupils' musical experiences.

Our school hosts performances by a range of musicians from the local music hub, including brass groups, pianists, and cellists. Instrumental ensembles within the school, such as our brass group, perform regularly in assemblies, concerts, and school events. Choristers also perform in Mass, giving pupils experience of ensemble and vocal performance in a meaningful context. Pupils with external music lessons, such as piano, are invited to perform in assemblies, celebrating their achievements and inspiring their peers. Older pupils model these musical opportunities, supporting younger children and encouraging participation across the school.

Links with Longborough Festival Opera and the Chipping Campden Music Festival have brought musicians from around the world to perform at St Catharine's, providing pupils with a global perspective on music and exposing them to a wide variety of styles and instruments.

Through these experiences of performances, workshops, ensembles, chorister participation, and community events, pupils develop not only their musical skills but also teamwork, confidence, presentation skills, and creativity, enriching their broader education and personal development.

In the future

We are committed to sustaining and enriching our musical programmes by continuing to participate in a wide range of musical events. We will maintain our valuable partnerships with Longborough Festival Opera and the Chipping Campden Music Festival, ensuring that pupils have ongoing opportunities to perform with professional musicians and take part in engaging workshops.

We will continue to involve pupils in community events, such as Scuttle Brook and Christmas carolling, fostering both a lifelong love of music and a strong sense of community engagement. Through these initiatives, we aim to provide a lasting and vibrant musical education that benefits all pupils and supports their personal and creative development.