ST STEPHEN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY, A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Learning, living and loving one another in God's name

Gargrave Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1PJ Email: admin@st-stephens.n-yorks.sch.uk
Tel. 01756 709451

Music Development Plan 2025 - 26

Curriculum music

At St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery, the music curriculum is delivered primarily through the Spark Yard scheme of work, ensuring a structured and progressive approach to music education. In addition, pupils in Years 1 and 3 benefit from specialist singing lessons provided by the Leeds Diocese, enriching their vocal skills and musical understanding. The school also offers accordion lessons during school time, providing pupils with opportunities to develop instrumental skills within the curriculum framework.

Next steps:

- Introduce classroom-based composition tasks that encourage creativity and understanding of musical elements alongside performance.
- Provide training or resources for staff to integrate more varied musical instruments and technology within the curriculum to broaden pupils' technical skills.

Co-curricular music

St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery offers a vibrant co-curricular music programme that includes a weekly choir session and a lunchtime choir club, fostering a love of singing and community among pupils. There is also a Diocese Choir available after school, providing an additional singing opportunity beyond the school day. Furthermore, a percussion club is run by a class teacher after school, allowing pupils to explore rhythm and ensemble playing in an informal setting.

N**ext steps:**

- Expand co-curricular offerings to include other instrumental groups or ensembles to cater to diverse musical interests.
- Schedule occasional workshops or masterclasses with visiting musicians to inspire and challenge pupils.
- Develop a system to track pupil participation and progression in co-curricular activities to better support their musical development.

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Musical experiences

The school actively engages pupils in a range of musical experiences that enhance their personal development and community involvement. Pupils participate in carol singing at local nursing homes in Skipton, bringing joy to the wider community and developing their performance confidence. Music is also a key feature in assemblies and class events, offering regular performance opportunities. Additionally, the school participates in singing workshops at Skipton community events and performs at notable venues such as Skipton Castle. Pupils are also preparing to take part in the Young Voices event in January 2026, providing a high-profile platform to showcase their talents.

Next steps:

- Increase opportunities for pupils to perform regularly within the school to build confidence and musical fluency.
- Develop partnerships with local arts organisations to create more varied and enriching musical experiences.
- Introduce pupil-led music events or concerts to encourage leadership and ownership of musical activities.

In the Future

Looking ahead, St Stephen's Catholic Primary School and Nursery aims to broaden its musical provision by offering more performance opportunities for pupils and expanding the range of instrumental lessons available. These developments align with the school's vision to nurture each pupil's talents and foster a lifelong love of music through diverse and inclusive experiences.

Next steps:

- Plan and schedule regular school concerts or showcases that include solo and group performances across different instruments.
- Explore partnerships with local music tutors or organisations to increase the variety and accessibility of instrumental lessons.
- Invest in additional musical instruments and resources to support a wider range of lessons and self-directed learning.