

Music



*St. George's Central CE
Primary School and Nursery*

'Music is a powerful, unique form of communication, which can change the way that pupils think, feel and act. It brings together intellect and feeling, and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of our culture past and present, music helps pupils to understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between home, school, Church and the wider world.'

Here at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, we are proud to be a Music Mark member in recognition of our excellent music provision. We aim to encourage all children, regardless of background, to have a wealth of musical opportunities throughout their time at our school.

Some of the musical opportunities offered are:

- Curriculum music lessons planned by our music lead taking place weekly.
- 'Composer of the Half-term'.
- Taking advantage of our strong links with Wigan Music Service (Chime, Gala concert, Music Alive, KS1 songshare).
- Our school choir.
- Peripatetic lessons on a range of different instruments.
- Wider Opportunities.
- Ongoing performance and concert opportunities.

Please read on to find out more about the fantastic opportunities available for your child and how to access these.

Curriculum Music Lessons

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery, Music is an integral part of our school curriculum and is therefore taught in each class on a weekly basis, following the bespoke planning units devised by our Music Lead. These aim to expose children to a wide range of composers, cultures and musical time periods. Across each unit taught, children will have the opportunity to develop their fundamental skills of listening, appraising, singing, playing instruments, improvising, composing and performing. Children will be encouraged to work both individually and collaboratively in their music making and will be encouraged to participate to their own ability level in a fun and engaging way.



Composer of the Half-term

Each half-term, a different composer is selected to be our 'Composer of the Half-term'. We choose this person in order to promote children's understanding of genre and the musical history timeline and to encourage the children to challenge stereotypes. The children listen to the music of this composer when entering and exiting the hall for worship and will learn facts about the composer each week during singing worships. This is reinforced by a corridor display about the composer of the half-term, which often encourages children to respond in some way. Some of the composers we will be listening to this year are:

Thomas Tallis: 1505 – 1585

Joseph Bologne (Chevalier de Saint George): 1745 – 1799

Danny Elfman: 1953 – present

Ethel Smyth: 1858 – 1944

Chen Yi: 1953 – present

Johann Pachelbel: 1653 – 1706

School Choir



We believe that group singing is an important form of expression. At St. George's Central, our school choir is open to any children from Y2-Y6. Rehearsals are held each Wednesday from 3:20pm – 4:15pm. During the year, we provide many opportunities for the children to perform, both in school and in the wider community. Some examples of events we have taken part in over the last year include: half-termly performances to parents/carers, Remembrance Day event at FLHS, Tyldesley Christmas Lights Switch-on, Rotary Club Christmas Carol Service, ATSA Singing Festival and the ATSA Art Exhibition.

If you would like to enrol your child in the choir, please contact the school office or write a note in your child's planner.



Dates for our half-termly musical performances for this year are:

Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Wednesday 17th December 2025

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Wednesday 1st April 2026

Wednesday 20th May 2026

Instrumental lessons

We are very lucky to have visiting musicians from Wigan Music Service in school each week to offer instrumental lessons on a range of different instruments including:

- Guitar
- Keyboard/piano
- Drums/percussion
- Strings
- Brass
- Woodwind
- Singing
- DJ skills



Enrolment

If you are interested in arranging instrumental lessons for your child, please contact the school office directly. We encourage new starters at the beginning of each half-term.

Cost

All lessons take place during the course of the school day. Lessons can be taught either individually or in small groups and are currently charged at £6.99 per lesson, although there is the option to have a double individual lesson for £13.98 per lesson.

Children in Year 5, who have been involved in Wider Opportunities during Year 4, can benefit from free instrument hire during the Autumn term if they choose to undertake peripatetic lessons.

Should financial support be required, there is a package available directly from Wigan Music Service. Please contact the school office and ask about the Assisted Tuition Scheme and you will be given the associated paperwork to complete for this.

Instrument hire

Instruments for all lessons (except drums) are available to hire for a small fee from Wigan Music Service. Please contact them directly to arrange this on 01942 776169.

Your child is also welcome to bring their own instrument from home, although we would encourage you not to invest a lot of money on a new instrument until you are sure that your child is enjoying learning the instrument and is going to continue with lessons.

Ensembles

When your child has demonstrated a suitable level of playing in their instrumental lessons, they may be invited to attend one of the 50 different instrumental ensembles taking place across the borough each week. Please visit the link below to view all available ensembles and find details of how to enrol:

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Wigan-Music-Service/Weekly-Ensembles.aspx>

Getting the most out of instrumental lessons

To gain the most out of your child's instrumental lessons, it is imperative that they practise regularly for short periods of time. This will enable them to recall and reinforce skills they have learned during their lessons and will help them to progress faster. Please ensure that your child has their instrument and their music for their instrumental lesson each week. Lessons cannot be refunded due to forgotten instruments.

Wider opportunities

All children in our Year 4 cohort receive a specialist music lesson from Mrs Lord at Wigan Music Service each week. Children experience three different percussion instruments over the course of the year, including African drums, tuned percussion and plastic percussion. The learning from each unit culminates in an end-of-term concert for parents and carers. These are the dates for performances this year:

Thursday 11th December 2025 – 2:00pm

Thursday 26th March 2026 – 2:00pm

Thursday 2nd July 2026 – 2:00pm



Ongoing performances and concert opportunities

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that experiencing live music is fundamental in developing children's capital culture, confidence and enjoyment of music, which is why we offer a vast array of live music opportunities for children to watch and be involved with. Each year, all children are treated to Wigan Music Service's 'Music Alive' concert, where professional musicians come and visit school and perform for children. We also have the Fred Longworth Brass Band performing for us at Christmas time. As part of children's learning across the curriculum, children are involved in performances by companies such as the 'POP Project'. Children undertaking instrumental lessons are taken to Wigan Music Service's 'Gala Concert' to experience the expertise of children already involved in the many different ensembles available. Children in our KS1 department are involved in the 'KS1 Infant Songshare' event each year, where they learn a series of songs in school then come together with other primary schools in the Wigan borough to perform together.



Children are also involved in a wide variety of performances in school, Church and in the local community including: Nursery Christmas singing stay and play events, Reception Christmas performances, KS1 nativity, KS2 Christmas Carol service, Easter service and KS2 productions. The dates for these can be found below:

Darlington Street Nursery Singing Stay and Play

Monday 8th December 2025 – 9:00am

Tuesday 9th December 2025 – 9:00am

Wednesday 10th December 2025 – 2:00pm

Lancaster Avenue Nursery Christmas Celebration Stay and Play

Thursday 11th December 2025 – 2:30pm

Friday 12th December 2025 – 9:30am

Reception Christmas Performances

Monday 8th December 2025 – 2:30pm

Tuesday 9th December 2025 – 9:30am

Wednesday 10th December 2025 – 9:30am

KS1 Christmas Production

Monday 8th December 2025 – 6:00pm

Tuesday 9th December 2025 – 2:30pm

Wednesday 10th December 2025 – 6:00pm

KS2 Christmas Carol Service at St. George's Church

Thursday 18th December 2025 – 10:00am

Easter Service at St. George's Church

Thursday 2nd April 2026 – 10:00am

KS2 end of year production

Monday 6th July 2026 – 6:00pm

Tuesday 7th July 2026 – 1:45pm

Wednesday 8th July 2026 – 6:00pm

Let's Play

Each year, some of our most proficient musicians are invited to perform at a special evening event at St Richard's Parish Hall in Atherton, involving children from other local schools. This is an opportunity for children to perform a solo or small group piece in front of an audience of approximately 150 parents, carers and community members. If your child has been invited to perform at this event, you will receive a letter shortly after the Easter holidays.



CHIME Project

Children in our Reception cohort benefit from a full half-term of music lessons offered by Wigan Music Service. We are very lucky to have Mrs Shirley join us each week to deliver lessons relating to the current theme of learning. Mrs Shirley will help to develop skills to singing, rhythm and playing instruments.



We hope that your children enjoy engaging in the many wonderful music opportunities we have to offer here at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery. We are always looking to improve our provision even further, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact our school office. We are especially interested in providing our children with more opportunities for experiencing live music so if you play an instrument yourself or know someone who does and would be willing to perform in school for our children, we would love to hear from you!

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

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