

Music development plan summary: St. Mary's Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Charlotte Jenkinson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Our Curriculum

EYFS

Music is an integral part of the EYFS curriculum and the children engage in singing, dancing and performing throughout the year. In the Foundation Stage the children listen to a variety of music genres - from popular music to classical music as part of our Musician of the Month; as well as learning nursery rhymes and other songs. The children learn how to imitate movements in response to music and keep a steady pulse (clapping, tapping, and marching). They will learn how to take turns when singing and how to be a good listener. Through the use of pitch, they will use voice to show different emotions. They will have the opportunity to comment on their own and other people's performance.

Year 1 to 6

At St. Mary's Church of England Primary school, we use the Leicestershire Music Scheme. This scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014).

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

The intention is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a lifelong love of music. Each class teacher uses the scheme and adapts it to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school to the best of their ability. Sequencing and progression are clear. We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening and composing. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

The Leicestershire Music scheme has been designed with the following key principles:

- Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge every year as the same six core units are used every year, namely pulse, voice, rhythm, pitch, technology structure and form and 20th century music.
- A skill or area of knowledge is revisited each year but with growing complexity as children move through the school.
- Music from different genres and across generations forms part of the scheme, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.
- Musical notation and how to compose music is an important feature. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

We teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving,

decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school. Implementation

We cover one music unit per half-term across the school. Music is taught as a discrete lesson usually lasting 30 to 45 minutes.

Adaptation and inclusion for all

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting open-ended tasks which could have a variety of responses
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- Grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group
- Providing resources depending on the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children

We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions, scaffolding and reasonable adjustments will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Resources

We have a range of instruments including: glockenspiels, a wide variety of percussion instruments, a piano, keyboards, descant recorders and djembe drums, ukuleles, glockenspiels.

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.

Outside of lesson time, we offer music lessons for the following instruments:

- Ukulele
- Violin
- Singing

These lessons can be individual or paired on the request of the child/family. All lessons take place during the school day and parents liaise directly with the external music teachers. The lessons are paid for privately by the family.

We also offer weekly in-school band lessons from Rock Steady. These lessons celebrate fun, creativity and individuality. Their lessons are inclusive and help children to find a sense of belonging through new friendships and a shared love for music. Social skills, wellbeing and confidence are also boosted through the mixed age group sessions. At the end of each term, the children showcase their talents to the school, parents and carers with a performance in the church.

We have an after-school choir club that is attended from Years 3-6. The choir has the opportunity to attend the Young Voices Concert and also performs at school events such as the Hinckley Christmas light switch on.

We also have a lunchtime 'Ukulele Rocks Club' to allow children in years 4 to 6 to continue their ukulele learning.

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.

Throughout the school year, all classes lead a class assembly for parents and carers where they have the opportunity to speak, act, share their learning and sing. EYFS and Year 1 and 2 pupils perform the Nativity at Christmas, this includes acting and singing a variety of modern and traditional Christmas songs. In addition to this, our Year 3 and 4 children perform Carols by Candlelight in St. Mary's Church. At the end of the academic year, Year 6 children perform a play which involves learning scripts, singing, acting and performing in front of families and the wider community.

Each year as a whole school we go to watch the pantomime at the Belgrade theatre. We also have a selection of visiting theatre and dance groups in school for performances throughout the year for children to watch and enjoy.

A musical workshop for all year groups takes place each year. This enables children a fun and first-hand experience of different musical styles such as African drumming and Samba drumming.

In every school assembly for EYFS, KS1 and KS2, children sing a variety of songs, often using the Out of the Ark resource.

In the future

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

- Meeting with Leicestershire music to discuss the silver 'Developing Quality Award'
- Introduction of the Active Listening Scheme in whole school assemblies
- Exploring potential links with the music department at our local high school
- CPD opportunities for teachers
- Continuing to identify cultural music opportunities and experiences across the school.
- Further embedding of Musician of the Month developing children's cultural capital.