

Music development plan summary: St John's VA C of E Primary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	01/09/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Aimee Gee
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sing Up Rocksteady Ware Music Academy

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.

One hour a week is allocated to the teaching of music, which is taught throughout key stage 1 and 2.

We have introduced a new music curriculum this year using Sing Up. All year groups use and have access to music taught through Sing Up to ensure a well-structured approach. Sing Up allows children to build on their previous learning. Music lessons have a focus on the dimensions of music (pulse, pitch, dynamics, rhythm, texture and tempo) as well as listening to, improvising, singing and composing music.

All pupils from year 1 to year 6 partake in hymn practice for 20 minutes each week. This allows pupils to practice new and known songs, to foster their love of singing. They then have the opportunity to sing these songs at events outside of school, such as the local

Church. Pupils also have opportunities to share their learning with their peers and parents/carers at events such as plays and assemblies during school time.

Children from year 1 to year 6 can take part in singing, drum and guitar lessons weekly with Rocksteady music, and weekly piano, drum and violin lessons through Ware Music Academy.

Adaptation

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 in order to challenge individuals;
- Providing resources depending on the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support individuals or groups of children

Assessment

- On-going Assessment for Learning (AfL) practices within class and group sessions, including the sharing of and reference being made to Learning Objective and Success Criteria and self and peer assessments of understanding, outcomes and progress. Children who are showing a greater depth understanding are also pushed further and signposted to external musical programmes. Assessments are used diagnostically by teachers to evaluate learning and inform teaching and by teachers and senior leaders within the Accountability Process to evaluate individual and groups of children's standards and achievements and provision and to inform future provision and school development. At the mid-point of the year and the end of the year, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the musical skills and development of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum or Foundation Stage Framework which is recorded in the end-of-year report.

Resources

We have a range of instruments stored in the school:

- African drums
- Xylophones and glockenspiels

- Ukeleles
- Bells and cymbals
- Claves
- Recorders

We also have access to 'Out of the Ark' music.

SEND

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 and scaffolding enables all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Part B: Extra-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.

St John's offers music tuition outside what is taught in lesson time on a one-to-one basis for piano, drum and violin. These lessons take place in dedicated rooms to learn and rehearse.

Pupils also can join a band with other children in the school through Rocksteady, giving them the opportunity to play different instruments, learn songs and perform to their peers. Lessons for this take part weekly. Individual and small group lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are Pupil Premium, these lessons can be funded by the Pupil Premium provision.

Pupils can join the school choir (free of charge). The choir meets weekly in one term of the year. They rehearse in school and are able to perform during assemblies and other school events.

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.

There are many opportunities for musical experiences planned throughout the academic year for EYFS, KS1 and KS2. These include music concerts/performances to parents and well-being music performances to peers. Each year group has an opportunity to display their musical talent during their assemblies, shows and performances (eg. during the Harvest assembly, Nativity play, Year 6 end of year performance). Music is incorporated into a variety of activities and events within school, such as weekly assemblies, singing assemblies, classroom routines and special celebrations

Each week, pupils sing during hymn practice where they have the opportunity to refine their singing of songs which they will be performing during school events.

In the future

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

CPD and capacity planning – plan CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in singing in the classroom and delivery.

Performance opportunities – broaden the range of performance opportunities for children in school and beyond for parents to attend: provide more musical experiences such as competitions and trips, including those for our school choir.

Termly Rocksteady concerts to showcase what they have learnt.

Termly violin, piano and drum lessons to showcase what they have learnt.

Musical engagement with feeder secondary schools– look for opportunities to work with feeder secondary school for transition.