

Music development plan summary: St. Johns C.E. Primary School, Kidderminster

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Philippa Hillman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
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 music curriculum is designed to fulfil the National Curriculum Music Programmes of Study and informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2012) by progressively developing children's skills in listening, performing, composing and evaluating music. It also aims to develop transferable life skills including team working, listening skills, perseverance, fine motor skills and self-confidence. The children will have the opportunity to: -Learn to play the recorder and the acoustic guitar (KS2) and read staff notation. -Learn to play a range of percussion instruments both tuned and untuned. -Be creative and imaginative through experimenting with combining and sequencing sounds in their composing work. -Experience listening to and analysing a range of music from different countries and traditions as well as music from different eras of the Western Classical tradition. -Grow in confidence, nurture and share their talents both in school and the wider community through regular performance opportunities.

Curriculum Time

The current contact teaching time pupils receive in music is:

Reception and Year 1 - 30 mins per week

Years 2-6 – 1 hour per week.

EYFS: During EYFS pupils learn to sing songs (including worship songs used in assemblies) and speak chants and rhymes. They are taught to play tuned and untuned percussion instruments including chime bars through a scheme designed by the music teacher called Rainbow Chimes. They learn the four basic note values, how to read them as traditional notation and how to compose a simple rhythm pattern. They listen to a variety of music including music from around the world. They are also taught the basic elements of music including fast and slow, loud and quiet, long and short and then use these to create music for different purposes. They also explore and sequence different sounds.

Key Stage 1: In Year 1, pupils continue to sing regularly and learn worship songs and action songs. They perform on percussion instruments and continue the rainbow chimes scheme. They further develop their knowledge of basic rhythm notation and perform and compose more complex rhythm patterns. They also listen to a variety of music including classical and music from round the world. They explore, choose and order sounds.

In Year 2 pupils continue to sing a variety of songs including worship songs, the Jigsaw PSHE song for each half term and songs connected to their topic work. They continue the whole class instrumental rainbow chimes scheme and have a half terms introduction to how to play the descant recorder. We have a dozen Nuvo recorders which are specially designed for pupils with small fingers or fine motor issues who would find using a standard recorder difficult. Pupils are taught to recognise treble stave notes. They build on their rhythm knowledge and learn more note values and perform and compose more complicated rhythm patterns and polyrhythms.

Key Stage 2

In Lower Key Stage 2 pupils continue to sing regularly including worship songs, the Jigsaw PSHE songs and songs for their topic work. They also continue to play percussion instruments and use them for composition work. They start to learn the descant recorder and are taught to read treble stave notation through a scheme designed by the music teacher called Karate Recorders. Year 4 pupils are taught whole class guitar lessons and have the opportunity to gain the ABRSM Copper Music Medal qualification if they so wish. They are taught the elements of music and use them to compose for different purposes both in groups and individually. They notate their compositions using a variety of methods. Pupils also listen to a range of different music including world music, pop music and classical music. They complete regular

listening tests to help them to listen with attention to detail and to recognise the sounds of different instruments and the use of the elements of music. Finally, pupils study the history of western classical music covering Medieval and Renaissance music in Year 3, then Baroque and Classical music in year 4 to develop an understanding of how music and instruments have developed and changed over time. They have regular opportunities to perform: (Year 3 – Stone Age Play, Christmas Play and Easter Service), (Year 4 – Roman play, Christmas Play and Pentecost Service)

As they move into Upper Key Stage 2, they continue to sing regularly including worship songs, the Jigsaw PSHE songs and songs for their topic work. They also continue to play tuned and untuned percussion instruments and use them for composition work. They continue to learn the descant recorder and progress through their Karate Recorder belts. They also perform ensemble recorder pieces with three differentiated parts and larger recorders including treble, tenor and bass. Year 5 and 6 have whole class guitar lessons and the opportunity to gain the ABRSM Copper and Bronze Music Medal qualifications if they so wish. They continue to compose for different purposes both in groups and individually including composing sound pictures, chocolate advert raps, space pieces, 12 bar blues melodies and Samba compositions. They notate their compositions using a variety of methods including graphic score. Pupils also listen to a range of different music including world music, pop music and classical music. They complete regular listening tests to help them to listen with attention to detail and to recognise the sounds of different instruments and the use of the elements of music. They continue their study of the history of western classical music covering Romantic music in year 5 and then 20th century music in year 6. Pupils still have regular performance opportunities including, year 5 pupils performing a Christmas cantata at the school church service and a Viking Play, year 6 pupils performing a Christingle concert to parents and their leavers musical in the summer term.

Part B: Music tuition, Choirs and Ensembles.

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 all Key Stage 2 pupils can learn to play one of the following instruments: Guitar, ukulele, keyboard, saxophone, clarinet, flute and Drumkit.

The lessons are taught in small groups in 5-week blocks by the music teacher. Pupils can work through the 5 levels of ABRSM Music Medal Qualifications if they wish or the traditional ABRSM music performance grades. The cost is £5 per lesson but the school pays for those eligible for Pupil Premium or CLA.

We provide a school choir which rehearses once a week for 1 hour in Autumn and Spring terms. It is open to pupils from Years 2-6 and is completely free of charge. It has regular performance opportunities throughout the year including concerts at local nursing homes, The St. Johns Social Club, Wyre Forest Crematorium, performances in school and concerts at St. Johns church. Performing gives pupils a chance to develop their self-confidence, self-esteem and gain a sense of achievement. We run a guitar club in the summer term for pupils in years 4-6. Due to time constraints and a lack of pupils learning orchestral instruments we currently do not have a school band.

We do not have any dedicated practice rooms but do have a dedicated music classroom that pupils can use for rehearsals by arrangement with the music teacher.

Part C: Musical Performances

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.

All pupils sing together in worship everyday either in class or in the hall. Pupils in Years 2-6 all perform at St. Johns Church once a year through leading a whole school service (2 – Harvest, 3 – Easter, 4 – Pentecost, 5 – Christmas, 6 – Leavers Service). Years 2-6 also perform a play to their parents in the school hall (2- Great Fire of London, 3 – Stone Age, 4 – Romans, 5 – Vikings, 6 – Leavers Play) All pupils perform a Christmas performance / play / service to their parents. The school choir put on regular concerts to parents and perform at school events organised by the PTA. Pupils having instrumental lessons have opportunities to perform to their parents at Christmas time and in the Summer Term. All these performances are Free of charge. All pupils watch the Year 1 and Reception Nativity play and the Year 6 Leavers play.

In the future

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

We are looking to improve by providing (in collaboration with other schools in our MAT) a trip to a professional concert or to get professional musicians into school as an inspirational experience for our pupils (hopefully this academic year). We will also look at increasing year 1's curriculum time to the recommended 1 hour per week for the academic year 2026/27. We are hoping to create some instrumental ensemble opportunities this academic year including a drumming/percussion club and a keyboard ensemble.

Further information

Our local music hub is Severn arts, their website is: <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/>