

Music development plan summary: St. John's CE Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	November 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr L Higham
Name of local music hub	Sefton Music Service: Sky HUB

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.

Throughout their time at St. John's CE Primary School, all pupils will have the opportunity to sing, to listen to music, to experience different musical instruments, to perform music and to enjoy music as part of our music curriculum. The programmes of study in the national curriculum for music underpin the teaching and learning that takes place. We aim to provide all pupils with an equal opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of music, to foster and stimulate enjoyment and appreciation of music.

It is our aim that all pupils will develop a love and appreciation of music through playing instruments and singing, listening and appraising, performing and sharing. Our music curriculum aims to engage, inspire and challenge pupils and to provide opportunities for our pupils to find their musicality.

Music is taught throughout the school following the Charanga Original Scheme, from Reception through to Year 6. This provides children with a rich musical experience, exposing them to a huge variety of songs, bands, artists and composers, allowing them each term to listen to and appraise music, develop their musical disciplinary knowledge through activities and games, as well as rehearsing and performing songs using voices and musical instruments. Charanga provides resources which enhances children's learning in lessons, teaching them key musical vocabulary and giving them the chance to

develop their sense of pitch and rhythm. For the past number of years, our music curriculum has mostly been delivered by a member of staff who is a previous high school music teacher and has many years of experience teaching music in a variety of settings. This has given our children the chance to have specialist music teaching as they have experienced our music curriculum delivered in their classes.

In EYFS, we begin teaching music through developing the children's knowledge, skills and understanding as described in the EYFS curriculum area of 'expressive arts and design' by listening and responding to music and expressing their feelings and responses. Children have lots of opportunities to sing and also explore and engage with music making. In Key Stage 1 and 2, music is taught in class for an hour per week, allowing children to develop their musical knowledge and understanding through their Charanga topic. Pulse, rhythm and pitch in music are the main areas introduced at the beginning of Key Stage 1, with dynamics, tempo, timbre, structure, texture and notation being introduced and developed as the children progress to the end of Key Stage 2.

Some half terms include topics which give children the opportunity to perform on musical instruments, such as glockenspiels and recorders. These skills are developed throughout Key Stage 2, with children being introduced to the glockenspiel as an instrument in Years 3 and 4, then being allowed to use their skills by practicing and performing using the glockenspiel as part of a song in Year 5 and 6.

As part of using the Charanga Scheme as a school, there are lots of CPD opportunities throughout the year for our staff, provided by free online zoom courses run by Charanga. These are valuable sessions which allow staff to develop their musical pedagogy and better utilise the teaching and learning resources available on Charanga, allowing children to have a greater experience of musical teaching through our taught curriculum.

To further support our music curriculum, our school is partnered with Sefton Music Service's Sky HUB. This HUB has also provided CPD for the Music subject lead, allowing collaboration and support with other schools in the planning and delivering of our music curriculum.

To see our Whole-School Music Curriculum Overview, see our Music page on the school website.

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.

Children in our school have the chance to be part of a school choir, rehearsing and performing songs. This has been organised and run by a specialist member of staff who is a trained high school music teacher with vast experience running such co-curricular music opportunities. This has been open to KS2 children, and we ensure that

pupil premium children and more vulnerable learners also have the chance to access these opportunities, fostering inclusivity.

As part of the 'Wider Opportunities' scheme run by Sefton Music Service, Year 3 children are taught the trumpet for an hour per week by a brass specialist who comes in to our school to deliver these sessions. All children, including pupil premium and SEND children, are able to experience this tuition and are able to loan a trumpet free of charge for the whole school year, taking it home to practice during the week and during holidays.

At the close of this year, Year 3 children are encouraged to continue learning the trumpet outside of school on a Friday night at the Sefton Music Centre. Instruments continue to be loaned to children who attend, free of charge, and children then have the chance to develop their trumpet playing and play as part of a band or ensemble, performing in concerts throughout the year.

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.

During this year, we aim for all children to take part in musical experiences both in school and outside of school.

In school, every child has the chance to participate in whole-school singing as part of our daily collective worships. This provides rich opportunities for singing within the context of our Christian ethos and values. To add to children's musical exposure, during collective worship once a week the children enter and leave the hall listening to a piece of music by a selected composer, along with viewing an information PowerPoint all about them and their life. We aim to expose our children to a wide variety of classical composers, allowing them to experience and enjoy classical music from different periods in history.

At the end of the school year, we have a musical performance for the whole school. Year 3 perform a concert with Mr Fogg (Sefton Music Service) on their trumpets, showing some of the pieces they have been learning during the year. Some classes also perform a song they have practiced and learned during their music curriculum lessons throughout the year, too.

Children in every class have the chance to participate in a nativity performance at Christmas. All children, from Reception to Year 6, take part in these through music and singing, with some having speaking and acting parts. These nativity performances provide a wonderful spectacle as children across the whole school rehearse and perform songs, which sometimes include two- or three-part harmonies, as part of a large group. Key Stage 2 children perform their nativity in St. Faith's church, adding to

the experience of performance in another setting outside of school. The nativities are performed to the other children in the rest of the school, as well as to their parents/carers who receive tickets to gain admission to watch.

Throughout the year, Year 2 and Year 5 children visit the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to watch and participate in a professional concert. In class prior to the concert, children learn some singing parts which they then perform from their audience seats as they take part in the concert. Children have always been fascinated by the spectacle of watching a live orchestra and experiencing music in this way.

In the future

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

- We will continue using Charanga during our timetabled curriculum music for at least one hour each week. We currently are using the Charanga Original Scheme but plan to transition across to the Charanga Model Music Curriculum Scheme throughout this year, with Year 5 piloting this. By the summer term, we aim to have all classes following the Model Music Curriculum Scheme.
- Sefton Music Services will continue to provide opportunities for all Year 3 children to learn an instrument, ensuring that every child has access to instrumental learning at some point during their time as a St. John's pupil.
- St. John's school choir will be started this year as an extra-curricular activity, allowing all children from Year 4, 5 and 6 to have the chance to be part of it through an audition process. The school choir will take part in the Sing for Sefton event, as well as other performance opportunities such as singing at the Waterloo Christmas Light Switch On and during certain collective worships in school. We hope that such experiences will contribute significantly to the children's confidence, fostering a deeper appreciation for music while reinforcing a sense of belonging and community.
- We aim to start to put on more regular school performances, probably termly at begin with. These will include a performance by the school choir, some classes performing their sings from their Charanga music topics, and a Year 3 trumpet performance at the end of the year.
- Year 5 and Year 2 will visit the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall during the course of the year. Children in these classes will have the opportunity to experience a live, professional concert in the Philharmonic Hall.