

Music Development Plan Summary: St. George's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Stannard
Name of local music hub	Music on Sea

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all of 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 and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

At St. George's music plays an important role in everything that we do. We believe that music provides opportunities for creativity, team building, and risk taking. It creates environments that are fun and relaxing, giving children a sense of achievement. We believe that music is seen to improve self-confidence, increase coordination and improve auditory skills

Children at St. George's have plenty of opportunities to experience a wide range of music in all year groups from Years R - 6. Lessons range from 30 – 60 minutes and are timetabled weekly. Throughout their time children will have opportunities to play a selection of tuned and untuned instruments as part of a class as well as 1 to 1 lessons. It is our aim that children are exposed to a variety of music sounds and styles, giving them many opportunities to explore, compose and perform. They will also have opportunities to listen to music as well as perform in plays, concerts and assemblies throughout the year in and outside school.

St. George's works alongside Music on Sea who provide our peripatetic teachers. We follow the model music curriculum and we do this by using both Charanga's scheme of work and Musician of the Month.

Charanga supports special needs education by providing a dedicated section and scheme to support children with special educational needs and disabilities. This scheme can be used alongside the main school platform or used separately. The SEND section has four areas offering Freestyle signed schools, song library and 'Anyone Can Play'. Children are encouraged to learn about turn-taking, anticipation, working with others, respect and appreciation of others, making choices and building self-esteem.

EYFS

Children in Reception have weekly lessons. We use Charanga, Musician of the Month and the BBC's Musical Storytime in our music lessons. We also teach music in Foundation Stage as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being imaginative, identified in the Birth to 5 Matters document and the foundation stage profile. Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. 'Counting Songs' foster a child's

mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. Children's standards and achievements in Music are assessed in line with the School's Assessment Policy. The children also learn nativity songs to be performed at their EYFS nativity performance.

KS1

Children in Year 1 and 2 have weekly music lessons. Lessons are 30 minutes long and incorporate singing with percussion and glockenspiel instrument playing. Children learn the importance of pulse, tempo and rhythm and use these skills when singing and playing their instruments as a whole class. Children work together, learning to respond to each other and follow instructions. Year 1 and 2 lessons follow Charanga's scheme of work and Musician of the Month. Singing and performing is an important part of the curriculum and the children learn a variety of songs for the KS1 nativity as well as individual class Family Day performances.

KS2

Year 3 - Whole class instrumental learning: Recorders

In Year 3 there is a focus on singing, listening and performing. Children listen to a broad range of music, increasing their knowledge about different music genres found throughout the world. They are encouraged to be open minded and to listen critically in order to expand their understanding of how music is constructed critically.

Children are introduced to music notation, starting with the basics, looking at the appearance and shape of notes and explaining what they mean. Children learn the difference between quavers, crotchets, minims and semibreves. Children learn the notes B, A, G, C, D enabling them to play an assortment of songs on the recorders. Children continue learning about the musical elements of pitch, melody and dynamics along with revision of pulse, tempo and rhythm. Children also learn a variety of songs which are performed alongside their recorders to a high standard at our Family Day and class assemblies.

Year 4 – Flutes

In Year 4, the children continue their musical journey by learning to play the flute. They learn how to hold, stand and produce a consistent sound using the correct technique. They continue to work on reading staff notation and recognising and using different note values. Rhythm is taught through both their children's playing and through games. The children will have some experience of composition using graphic scores and understand the difference between 2/4, 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. Children will also have the opportunity to listen to and discuss a range of musical pieces, learn about the composers and their lives and to share their thoughts and responses. They will learn about the different instrument families in the symphony orchestra and be able to recognise them by sight and some by sound. The children continue to learn about the musical elements of pitch, melody and dynamics along with revision of pulse, tempo and rhythm.

Singing and performing is a big part of the Year 4 music curriculum and the children learn a variety of songs which are performed in class assemblies and perform their flutes on Family Day. This includes part singing and rounds.

Year 5 – Keyboards

Children in Year 5 learn to play the Keyboards in small groups as part of their instrumental learning. Children continue learning staff notation on the treble staff and will begin to learn notation on the bass staff. Children learn about the difference between semibreves, minims, crotchets and crotchet rests. They learn about paired quavers and semiquavers as well as the difference between 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/8 time signatures. Children learn about the interactive dimensions of music such as pulse, rhythm and pitch. They are also encouraged to improvise using a small number of notes. Children will create a composition using Music Notepad on Charanga.

The children also develop their singing skills through a series of songs and warm up activities. They will perform in class assemblies, end of year performance and perform their instruments and sing at Family Day.

Year 6

Children in Year 6 continue to develop their improvisational, compositional and singing skills. They continue with the Charanga scheme and Musician of the Month. Children continue to listen to a broad range of music, increasing their knowledge about different music genres found throughout the world. They are encouraged to be open minded and to listen critically in order to expand their understanding of how music is constructed critically and respond appropriately.

Children in Year 6 have the opportunity to extend their improvisation skills through working in small groups using Charanga. They are challenged to compose music using YuStudio. The YuStudio software allows the children to create and record their music. Children are able to share their music with the rest of the class.

The children perform in assemblies, their end of year performance and singing pieces in parts at Family Day.

Part B: Co-curricular music

There are opportunities for pupils to sing and play music outside of lesson time, including choirs and one to one tuition, allowing children to make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

1 to 1 music lessons

St. George's offers 1 to 1 music lessons in keyboard, violin, guitar, flutes and clarinets. Peripatetic teachers come into school once a week and a majority of 1 to 1 lessons are 15 minutes long. Lessons are booked through our office and arranged with Southend Music Services.

KS2 Choir

Children also have the opportunity to join our KS2 choir. The choir is offered as a lunch club and takes place once a week. Children have taken part in the Junior Music Festival, Brentwood Cathedral Christmas Concert, O2 Young Voices, Assisi Trust Schools Choir Competition, as well as performing to the school.

Part C: Musical Experiences

St. George's provides several exciting experiences planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school.

Hymn Practise

The school holds a whole school hymn practise every Tuesday for 30 minutes. Pupils learn a range of songs, hymns and worship songs in preparation for our religious services throughout the year.

Musician of the Month

At the beginning of every month, we hold a whole school assembly to introduce the new musician. Lessons in classes link in and develop the children's knowledge and experience from EYFS through to Year 6. The children learn facts, find out about their place and impact in the musical timeline and experience a variety of music. This music is also played at the beginning of Celebration Assembly.

Sadler's Wells Digital Stage

We are signed up to watch dance productions from Sadler's Wells such as 'The Little Match Girl' for the older children to experience a live filmed performance.

Southend Choirs

Some children have also been involved with the Southend Choirs, practising in school for a performance of Christmas music at Claridge's London.

Live Performances

At St. George's we believe that live musical is inspiring. Therefore, we like to provide opportunities for our children to perform and listen to others. Children watch other year groups perform.

Children also get to perform in several performances during their time at St. George's. Our EYFS, Year 1 and 2 all perform in our annual nativity plays at school. KS2 lead a carol concert at St. George's Catholic Church. Our Year 5 and 6 perform in the end of year production. All of these provide our children with the chance to improve their self-confidence and self-esteem as well as speech, communication and presentation skills.

All of the children perform to an audience at our annual summer Family Day. Every class plays their instruments and sing in a performance showcasing the music on offer and demonstrating the progression throughout the school. These opportunities also help the children to work together, listen to each other, as well as engage with the audience.

Future Music Plans

- **To give children more experience of live performances in school and watching live musical performances.**
- **To register and sing at the Royal Albert Hall for the Junior Prom Praise event held in 2026.**

Further Information

Our local hub is Music On Sea which is now a part of the **Greater Essex Hub** - <https://musiconsea.co.uk/>

One to One lessons take part during the school day. Further information can also be found at <https://musiconsea.co.uk/>

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go for support beyond the school.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>