

Music development plan summary: St. James' Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Curriculum Team – Ash Parsons/Maisie Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Beth Dodd/Gemma Pain
Name of local music hub	Soundstorm
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

At St. James', we believe that music plays a crucial part in the development of children's learning and can be key to enabling ALL learners to develop creative and artistic skills and gain enjoyment and esteem from musical activities. Our culture fosters a love of music and singing and performance.

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.

Curriculum

At St James', every class in Key Stage One and Two has a timetabled lesson of 45 minutes per week for music.

All children also take part in a singing assembly every week for 20 minutes, where they learn additional repertoire, practise their vocal skills, including part singing and develop an enjoyment of singing, alongside developing skills in British Sign Language. Other assemblies also include opportunities to sing together.

Our curriculum uses the resources from GetSet4Music scheme.

Get Set 4 Music incorporates the aims and subject content of the National Curriculum for Music and the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). The MMC sets out sequences of learning in the following key areas which, when taken together, all contribute towards the steadily increasing development of musicianship:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

Music lessons at St James’ encourage children to be creative, imaginative and confident learners. Our objectives in the teaching of Music align with the National Curriculum in that we aim to ensure 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.

All of these key areas are embedded within the Get Set 4 Music curriculum resource which has been adapted as per the image below to align with our school curriculum.



My Curriculum Map

2025/2026						
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3	
Year 1	Senses	Superheroes	Fantasy and Adventure	Dinosaurs	Carnival of the Animals	At the Seaside
Year 2	Folksongs	Toys	Four Seasons	Great Fire of London	Oceans	Jupiter
Year 3	Castles	Stone Age	In the Garden	Greek Myths	Volcanoes	Mayans
Year 4	Minimalism Drumming	Samba Drumming	Rivers	Jazz	Words, Words, Words	Ancient China
Year 5	Animal Kingdom	Rock and Roll	Planets	Melodies of Divinity	Vikings	Africa
Year 6	Electricity	WW2	Arctic	Garageband	Reggae	Celebrations

Local Music Hub – Soundstorm

As part of the local music hub offer First Access scheme, children in Year 4 learn an instrument as a class for one term. The provision for this year is to learn the Samba drums. There is no charge for this provision.

SEND

This year, Soundstorm are also supporting us in setting up a Music Nurture provision by providing an experienced practitioner to work alongside a school staff member to use music to develop self-esteem and confidence for two groups of children with additional needs in this area.

Teachers in our Harbour high needs provision incorporate singing and music into their daily routine, beginning each day with the morning song and enabling children to express feelings through 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 James' has a musical culture that embraces opportunities for performance and musical enjoyment and participation beyond the core curriculum. Music plays throughout the day enabling children to listen to a wide variety of genres from pop to classical and jazz.

As part of our weekly worship, children enjoy Sign and Sing as a whole school. This is beyond a singing assembly and encourages children to learn a range of worship songs alongside British Sign Language and actions and movement. Year 6 worship leaders help to lead the signing. Songs are also used as part of class led worship for parents and pupils which every class leads once a year.

St James' has a popular and highly successful Glee Club for children in Years 4,5 and 6. There are no auditions for this club and all are welcome. The Club takes part in a wide range of performances from being part of Young Voices at the 02, performing in concerts with other schools and at school and church fayres and for the local community in care homes and local events. The club will also participate in the local Music Festival competition at Christchurch Priory. There is no charge for this opportunity.

Annually, a group of Key Stage Two children have the opportunity to work with a West-end performer and choreographer to develop a musical theatre performance, that they then perform to other schools in the trust as part of DCAT Enriched. There is no charge for this opportunity.

Music tuition is offered by independent music teachers in piano, keyboard, violin, recorder, guitar and ukulele. There is a charge for these lessons but the school uses part of the Pupil Premium budget to support those children to be able to undertake lessons.

All children who learn an instrument in school are offered the opportunity to perform at the annual Music Evening.

All Year 6 children take part in an annual production which is written for them and includes song, dance and music. This is an opportunity for children to experience the joy of performing as an ensemble and as part of a theatrical performance. It is a popular and well-loved occasion.

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.

Our pupils experience music regularly through the culture of the school. Sign and Sing and constant music throughout the day contribute strongly to children's musical experiences.

Beyond this, every class leads a whole school assembly once a year which includes music, singing and dance .

At Christmas, every child takes part in a musical performance for parents. Year 5 and 6 lead the Candlelight celebration which includes songs, dance, BSL and drama in a church setting. At events in the church and in school, they regularly hear the piano and organ being played.

We have a musical pantomime from Treehouse Theatre and an enrichment musical experience through the local music hub.

In the Summer term, a Music Evening is held in which around 75 children perform to parents and friends. Every child who learns an instrument in school is offered the opportunity to perform as groups or soloists or duets. Children in KS2 are able to audition to take part in the performance and will demonstrate a range of skills in instruments, dance and singing. The Glee Club also perform at this event which is a celebration of music across the school.

In the future

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

In the future, we would like to create a Music and Creative Arts team to enable more opportunities for more curriculum time and even more extra-curricular opportunities, particularly for children who may not get as many opportunities outside of school. We would like to incorporate more singing and music across the curriculum and to develop a Key Stage 1 choir alongside our, already successful, Glee Club and enhance the range of instrumental lessons offered to pupils in Key Stage 2.

We would like to continue to develop staff confidence in teaching music and using singing and music in lessons and we would like to continue to use music nurture as a provision for some of our vulnerable and SEN children.

Alongside this, we would like to develop our music studio to be a more effective space for music learning.

Further information (optional)

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 to for support beyond the school.

Our local music hub has a range of further opportunities. Information found on this link <https://soundstorm-music.org.uk/>

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