



Music Development Plan Summary

St Mary's Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Graeme Powlesland & Caroline Potter
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Service
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, extra-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.

How is Music Taught?

Music is taught as a discreet subject but also woven through other curriculum areas and times of the day with the skills and knowledge learnt being embedded across all areas of the curriculum.

It is an expectation that children are taught a whole class music lesson once a week lasting between 30-40 minutes dependent on age group. To supplement this, children also take part in a combination of: Weekly Collective Singing Assembly (15 minutes) and Daily Listening Sessions (5 minutes a day). Reception will have Continuous Provision activities (ongoing).

St Mary's has a Music Lead to oversee the curriculum delivery by supporting classroom teachers to teach. Where lessons are not taught by a specialist, teachers are provided lesson plans via Charanga or Musical Express to deliver their own lessons independently.

In addition, to support with teaching of whole class instrument lessons, Arts Council funding provided by Essex Music Service has been used to hire the services of an additional music specialist to teach 10 whole class recorder lessons in Year 3.

Our Music Curriculum

At St Mary's our curriculum is designed to allow for best progression from Early Years through to Year 6. The curriculum ensures the [National Curriculum for Music](#) (2013) expectations are met, whilst taking elements from the [Model Music Curriculum](#) (March 2021) and other purchased schemes.

The music curriculum is generally divided into 6 units across the year for each year group, with roughly 6 lessons per unit with the former lessons preparing and delivering a performance for an end of unit assessment.

Lessons are sequenced to ensure knowledge and skills are progressively developed in order to support children to meet the stated outcomes at the end of the topic.

By looking on the school website you can also see each year’s progression document, which gives more detail of the specific learning objectives, content, vocabulary, skills and knowledge.

Curriculum Accessibility

The music curriculum at St Mary’s is inclusive for all children with tasks designed to be accessible at different cognitive levels of understanding and by children with disabilities. Assessment practices have been put in place to guide children to progress irrespective of their current level of understanding. Lesson plans explain how rephrasing of tasks, or by using different support structures, can improve the access of music for all children.

Specific SEND and P Level criteria has been designed to set foundations for using music for those children who may find the beginning of the curriculum difficult to access.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, assemblies and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Private Instrumental Lessons

St Mary’s have a good relationship with the local music hub, Essex Music Services, who can deploy staff into school to teach 1to1, paired or small group instrumental lessons during the school day. Lessons are paid for by parents. Projected costings for the 2024-25 academic year, although subject to change, are:

- 10 x 15-minute lessons per term (recommended for beginner level) = £91.50 per term
- 10 x 20-minute lessons per term = £122 per term
- 10 x 30-minute lessons per term = £183 per term

Families with a household income under £24,000 can apply for a 66% discount for the above lessons. There are also free 15-minute lessons for Looked after Children, Adopted Children and those who have had contact with Social Care.

Children can also have brass lessons via an independent tutor. These are organised directly with the tutor but lessons take place in school. The costs are as follows:

- £21 for 30 mins
- £31.50 for 45 mins
- £42 for 1 hour

Children are encouraged to purchase their own instruments to practice on at home in between lessons, or – dependent on instrument – these can be loaned from Essex Music Service. If parents are struggling to find a suitable instrument, they are encouraged to communicate with the school as there have been instances where instruments can be loaned if they are not required for whole class lessons at that time.

Within lessons, children can work towards sitting formal graded exams, this should be communicated with the individual tutor to organise.

Ensembles and Clubs

St Mary’s offer a lunchtime choir club for KS2 children. The choir perform a range of concerts throughout the academic 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.

Music Assemblies

Each week, all children take part in a singing assembly led by class teachers and music lead. This is divided into KS1 and KS2.

Concerts and Performances

A calendar of concerts is organised each academic year to ensure that all children perform at least once in front of an audience. The below details the rough times and content of each concert:

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
-Harvest Service (October)	-Harvest Service (October)	-Harvest Service (October)	-Harvest Service (October)	Harvest Service (October)	Harvest Service (October)	Harvest Service (October)
-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)	-Nativity (Dec)
-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)	-Carol Service (Dec)
-Easter service (March/April)	-Easter service (March/April)	-Easter service (March/April)	- Spirit of Christmas (Dec, choir only)	- Spirit of Christmas (Dec, choir only)	- Spirit of Christmas (Dec, choir only)	- Spirit of Christmas (Dec, choir only)
-Ascension Service	-Ascension Service	-Ascension Service	-Easter service (March/April)	-Easter service (March/April)	-Easter service (March/April)	-Easter service (March/April)
	-Music Concert (Spring)	-Music Concert (Spring)	-Music Concert (Spring)	-Music Concert (Spring)	-Music Concert (Spring)	-Music Concert (Spring)
	-Saffron Hall event	-Saffron Hall event	-Ascension Service	-Ascension Service	-Ascension Service	-Ascension Service
			-Recorders (10 sessions)	-Saffron Hall event	-Saffron Hall event	-Saffron Hall event
			-Saffron Hall event		- Year 5 and 6 production (Summer)	-Year 5 and 6 production (Summer)

Trips and Opportunities

Each year children have performance opportunities both in assemblies and at our local church.

Children in KS1 and KS2 normally have an opportunity to take part in events at Saffron Hall.

In December, Children in choir have the opportunity to perform alongside the other schools in the local area as a massed choir. Parents are invited to attend with tickets costing £10, with proceeds going to the Saffron Walden Choral Society.

In the Future

It is felt that children enjoy their lessons and make the most of the experiences offered to them. As such, a focus in the music action plan for subsequent years includes:

- To introduce daily listening in all classes whereby children are encouraged to stop and listen to a piece of music once a day to help re-regulate their emotions. Song choices will be guided by a genre of the month to allow children to learn about a range of genres and musicians and to help them become critical thinkers who have opinions on the range of music available for them to listen to.
- To monitor the high-quality teaching of music by all members of staff across the school.

- To provide a range of opportunities for the children to see and interact with successful musicians.
- To develop our music curriculum to ensure that recommendations in the Model Music Curriculum are being met.
- To provide more informal opportunities for children to perform to their peers and parents, such as in assemblies, on the playground, or ‘busking’ in the playground at home time.

Further Information

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

The school’s local music hub partner, Essex Music Service, have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 which includes useful information.