

Music development plan summary: St Stephen's Junior School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2025-2026. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2025-26.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2026
Name of the school music lead	Emma Richards
Name of local music hub	West of England Music Alliance

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.

At St. Stephen's Junior School learning about music, developing a love of music, understanding and appreciating, creating and performing music and building an appreciation for the role of music in our society is vital to their education at our school.

Using music to build self-confidence, engagement with learning, developing creativity and seeing themselves as musicians is essential at our school. Music is able to do all of these things for our children and more and so St Stephen's wants to foster this in every child.

Our school follows a music progression scheme to ensure that coverage of knowledge and skills is developed sequentially throughout the school. This fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and the DFE's Model Music Curriculum. We also use 'Charanga' lessons to enhance our music lessons.

Every class is taught a minimum of three music units throughout three terms of the year. Over the course of a unit, the lessons taught will include singing, exploration, composition, performance, listening, reflecting and appraising a variety of music pieces and their own music. Music lessons can be exciting but challenging at the same time.

and appraise a wide range of recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians both through classroom teaching and singing assemblies. This diverse range of music offers the children a deeper understanding of the history of music and enriches their cultural expression.

At St Stephen's the children love to sing and we use singing assemblies to teach children about the world – Christian values, British values, Music History. Throughout a school year our aim is that children have learnt and performed 18 songs, both religious and from wider genres of music. In one term of the year, every year group learns and performs a song chosen for them too.

Also, as part of our curriculum, in Lower KS2 the children use instruments which build their rhythm skills and enable to play along with music, understanding and appreciating the beat, rhythm, tempo and pitch of music. We are then able to build on the children's understanding of this across Key Stage 2 using either chromebooks, glockenspiels or boomwhackers where children begin to understand how to produce melodies and form their own music compositions. In addition, using the school laptops the pupils are encouraged to use 'Charanga' to further develop their compositions and instrumental sounds.

We strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND by ensuring all children access music lessons in the appropriate way for them. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

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.

We have peripatetic music teachers – RockSteady music - that offer the opportunity for children to learn to play the keyboard, drums, guitar and voice. We also have 1:1 lessons in keyboard and guitar. Instrumental lessons are taught throughout the school day and lessons are taught either individually or grouped into small groups based on ability in a designated room.

The weekly lessons are either 20 or 30 minutes. Lessons are available to children of all year groups. The children are invited to perform their instruments to the whole school in Rocksteady assemblies.

During the course of the year, children have opportunities to rehearse and perform at events such as Young Voices.

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 is used within a variety of activities and events within school, such as assemblies, weekly singing assemblies, classroom routines and special celebrations.

Every week there is a 25 minute KS2 singing assembly. This is an opportunity for children to build on their song repertoire. We encourage an age appropriate repertoire of songs of different styles and genres. This allows them to further explore their voice and sing expressively using the interrelated dimensions of music, e.g. dynamics and pitch.

Across all years, children have opportunities to experience live music from the following below:

- Year 6 visit Bristol Hippodrome to watch the Christmas Pantomime every year.

- Most years we invite a travelling theatre company to perform a play to the whole school. We recently had Elf and the Shoemaker by Bristol Old Vic.
- This year, Upper KS2 are taking part in a livestream with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra where they can listen and appreciate orchestral music as well as engage in singing and body percussion. Depending on budget we hope to continue to book a yearly professional ensemble to perform to the whole school in person too.
- Depending on budget, we hope to regularly attend the Young Voices Choir event in Birmingham.
- The children also have opportunities to take part in musical performances, such as seasonal church services, Year 6 Summer performance and any Enquiry based music lessons.
- Year 4 lead the Harvest, Christmas and Easter Church services where they showcase their singing.
- We also have a yearly, 'St. Stephens's Got Talent' show. This is an opportunity for children to nominate themselves to audition and perform to the school their talent, instrument or sing.

In the future

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

We aim to further develop:

1. Teachers gaining confidence in delivering high quality music lessons and prioritising frequent music opportunities for the children.
2. How parents/carers are informed about the successes in music.
3. Continue to provide opportunities for the children to sing and perform in the community.
4. Increase the number of students taking instrumental lessons, especially Pupil Premium children.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.