

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

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs T Cansdale from January 2025
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	(Mrs Cansdale is headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bury Music Service

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.

In EYFS the main focus is singing and rhythm, although there are opportunities to explore instruments through some music lessons and continuous provision. In EYFS there is one short discrete music lesson which increases in length throughout the year. In addition, singing takes place throughout the school day, often linked to other learning opportunities, such as the singing of number rhymes. All our pupils are taught to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses; sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody; they explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

Within our curriculum music in KS1 and KS2, we teach all aspects of National Curriculum music and adhere to the recommendations in the Model Music Curriculum 2021.

Curriculum music in our school is taught for at least one hour each week in KS1 and KS2; this includes a 30 minute weekly music lesson, weekly 20 minute singing lesson plus 10 minutes throughout the week listening to music during worship. Kapow is used to support the delivery of our music curriculum.

In EYFS, KS1 and KS2, every music lesson in our school will include the teaching of singing and opportunities for listening/appraising. In EYFS/KS1, each lesson will also include a focus on rhythm and pulse. In addition, music lessons will either have a focus on playing (including

formal music notation, especially in KS2) or improvising or composing; sometimes a combination.

In KS2, there will be a balance of playing, improvising and composition across the year; some music units focus on one element more than another. In KS1, there is less focus on playing and a greater focus on musicianship (i.e. pulse/beat, rhythm and pitch) in line with the Model Music Curriculum. However, there is still a focus on improvisation and composition in KS1.

Our music overview (on our school website) details how we teach music each half term. Through Kapow we ensure that we teach age-appropriate singing, listening, performing, reading notation, music technology, improvising and composing.

Singing is a strength of the school. Children sing in curriculum music, in worship and in choir concerts. 'Out of the Ark' provides a good support for non-music specialists in curriculum Music. 'Out of the Ark' provides a good support for non-music specialists in worship.

All pupils in Y3 and Y4 have access to whole-class instrument lessons taught by a specialist teacher. Currently it is ukulele lessons. All year groups use full class set of glockenspiels plus a variety of untuned percussion, all owned by the school.

Music Technology is mainly taught to KS2 pupils through curriculum lessons using iPads.

All pupil premium children are fully engaged with curriculum music. All SEN pupils have been able to fully access curriculum music.

We use the following Key resources: Kapow, BBC 10 pieces, BBC Radio (for songs linked to topics), Out of the Ark (for songs linked to topics when appropriate).

## 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.

All our pupils sing tunefully and with confidence in worship; pupils sing to backing tracks using 'Out of the Ark'.

We use singing to help 'sticky' learning in other subjects through, for example, songs which link to our history topic, songs which help us to learn the names of the oceans and/or continents in geography.

A choir led by a member of staff meet to sing/practise once a week. Children perform in concerts, in church and in the community (for example in local shops at Christmas).

Music lessons for individuals or groups are offered in addition to the curriculum offer through Front Row Music. These are optional and paid for by parents.

Pupils that sing in the choir, learn ukulele or any other instrument, perform for the school and parents throughout the year. The singing group/choir perform in school, in church and in the local community, i.e. supermarkets. They also sing at the annual trust choir concert at Bury Parish Church. Y6 learn a number of songs which they sing together with 600 other children at Manchester Cathedral during the Leavers' Services. This year Y4 also sang at Festival

Gardens in Radcliffe as they learnt a song to commemorate the life of a local trade union and peace activist, Betty Tubbs. Their performance was broadcast on BBC Local News.

Pupils perform in a production at least three times during primary school; Reception nativity, Infant Nativity, and Y6 leavers production. They also take part in at least three church services at Harvest, Christingle and Easter.

## 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.

All our pupils perform in a production at least three times during primary school; Reception nativity, Infant Nativity, and Y6 leavers production. They also take part in at least three church services at Harvest, Christingle and Easter.

All pupils have the opportunity to listen to live music in and out of school.

Y4 pupils took part in a filmed performance as detailed above. Y6 pupils sing with a wide number of other primary children as part of their Leavers' Service. Y6 take part in a half day Organ Workshop which looks at the mechanics of the instrument as well as its sound and is led by a specialist organ professor and helps them to understand the significance of the instrument which is in our local parish church (used to be in York Minster).

All pupils get to see a visiting professional theatre production at Christmas.

In partnership with PE, we realise the importance of dance and moving expressively to music. Dance is taught as part of our PE curriculum to a range of different musical styles. Specialists dance coaches come in to school to teach an element of this through Sports Premium funding..

## In the future

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

Following the current music lead taking on another role in the Trust; Mrs Cansdale is taking on the role of music subject leader. Mrs Cansdale has sufficient musical knowledge to support staff with the music curriculum and can lead singing.

We will continue to work with Bury Music Service and Front Row Music to provide additional opportunities to the children. Ukulele lessons will continue for all pupils in Y3 and Y4.

We will strengthen links with local high schools especially with Philips and the new Star Radcliffe High School, to explore how our pupils might benefit from the specialist music teachers.

We will start to introduce more music appreciation through each class listening to pieces of music which is relevant for their year group and listed in the Music Model Music Curriculum. They will listen and be provided with information about the piece of music. This will be from a range of time periods, styles and cultures.

We will seek to engage with offers from Greater Manchester Music Hub and Bury Music Service.

We will need to improve the teaching of composing across the school; composing in KS2 can be taught through music technology.

We need to improve the assessment of music.

In future years, we will explore the opportunity of starting a school orchestra/band.

We need to increase opportunities for our children to experience and explore music from different cultures beyond what is currently in our curriculum.