Music development plan summary:
St. Philip's Catholic Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	December 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah McCurdy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah McCurdy
Name of local music hub	Create Music
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, 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 pupils can achieve.

At St Philip's, we use the Music Express Scheme of work throughout the whole school from Early Years to Year 6.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that 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 classes have a weekly timetabled music lesson, which lasts between 45 minutes to 1 hour. These lessons are taught from the Music Express scheme.

Music Express provides a carefully-structured progressive scheme of work for music, integrating singing, playing, listening and composing. The new edition of Music Express has been created with a cross-curricular, topic-based approach to music teaching in mind, so that learning about music is developed whilst exploring different topics and is linked with other curriculum subjects.

There are twelve units a year for Years 1-4, and six units for Years 5 and 6. Each unit has a musical focus, for example, exploring sounds, beat, pitch, performance. The musical development progresses through each age group, providing a comprehensive scheme of work. Each unit has been linked to one specific non-music subject and provides support for children's learning of that subject through music. The units are cross-curricular in nature and so also touch on many other subjects.

A steady progression plan has been built into Music Express, both within each year and one from one to the next, ensuring consistent musical development.

The scheme is carefully planned around a framework of spiral learning, and ambitious yet appropriate progression ensures that potential is continually developed, enriched and reinforced. Everything needed to deliver engaging lessons is provided: planning and assessment materials, recordings, videos, displays, step by-step teaching notes, technology advice are all part of the resource and suggested adaptations for children with SEND are available in the teaching notes.

Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music and listening and responding to music.

Lesson Delivery:

Within each music session there will be the following elements:

1. A clear Learning Objective, which is shared with the children.

2. An opportunity to listen and appraise during an introductory activity.

3. An opportunity to explore and learn new skills, through singing or playing instruments.

4. An opportunity to perform by the end of the lesson.

Most lessons will also provide the pupils with the opportunity to compose as well.

In addition, every child in Year 4 receives a weekly ukulele lesson for 10 weeks taught by a specialist music teacher via First Access from Create Music. This is paid for by the school.

This year, we have embarked on the Diocesan School Singing Programme, which will enable all children to develop their liturgical singing, whilst covering many elements of the Music curriculum. These sessions will take place weekly and be delivered by a specialist singing teacher.

All pupils have regular opportunities to sing through our collective worship assemblies, including a weekly 'Praise through song' assembly in which they learn and sing a wide variety of songs and hymns.

Create Music offers a local music hub with access to meetings and support for the music curriculum.

Music in EYFS:

We teach music in the Early Years Foundation Stage as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the EYFS Framework (2014). Music Express includes lessons for the EYFS but scheme includes opportunities for teachers to choose children units are appropriate for their children, based on planned topic learning and children's interests.

Assessment:

Children in Years 1-6 are assessed using ongoing Assessment for Learning (AfL) strategies three times a year, in December, April and June. These assessments are plotted onto our assessment system Sonar. Children in EYFS are assessed termly (6 times a year) across all areas of learning.

Resources:

We have a range of percussion instruments for use in Music lessons which are centrally stored. These include:

- Tuned percussion such as: Xylophones, glockenspiels and chime bars
- Untuned percussion such as: Tambourines, Tambours, castanets, maracas, cymbals and triangles
- A class set of rhythm sticks
- Multicultural percussion instruments

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.

- Create Music provide extra-curricular keyboard and violin lessons to children at St Philip's on a 1:1 basis. These are taught by peripatetic teachers and offered to pupils in Years 1-6.
- Zylo Performance offer the opportunity for extracurricular group guitar lessons for pupils in Years 1-6. All of these lessons take place weekly in our group rooms around the school.
- Rocksteady also offer the opportunity for extracurricular group music lessons. These lessons children to play music together in real bands – featuring vocals, guitar, bass, keyboard and drums. In these sessions, children are able to join a band of up to nine children and learn to play songs together.
- All extra-curricular music lessons are paid for by the parents. There is the opportunity for subsidised lessons for our pupil premium children. Rocksteady also offer a fully funded bursary place for one disadvantaged child, which can be chosen by the school.
- Children from all year groups are given the opportunity to perform as part of a singing ensemble each December during the Uckfield Late Night Shopping festivities.

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.

- Children have a range of opportunities to experience musical performances across this school. All classes take turns to lead liturgies/assemblies during the academic year, which include the opportunities for singing. These liturgies are shared with the rest of the school and the parent community.
- We also invite our peripatetic music teachers in to perform to the children during assembly times.
- Children who engage in extracurricular music lessons are invited to perform to the school and their parents several times during the school year.
- All children from YR-Y6 participate in a Christmas Nativity, with EYFS and KS1 being performed in the school Hall, and KS2 being performed in the Church. These Nativities are performed to the rest of the school before being performed to the parents and families of the children.
- The Friends of St Philip's (PTA) pay for the whole school to watch a Pantomime at the end of Term 2 before Christmas.
- Year 6 perform a musical production at the end of the Summer term each year.
- Opportunities for music are provided through other subjects such as Computing, P.E and History.

- We were successful applying for tickets for Glyndebourne Opera House this year, with Year 6 having the opportunity to watch a full length opera in the Autumn term.
- Once a year, we arrange for music or singing workshops for all classes across the whole school. The cost for these workshops is subsidised by the school, using the Music curriculum budget, along with small contributions from the parents to cover the cost. In recent years we have had African drumming, Samba instruments and a singing workshop focusing on songs from around the world.

In the future

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

- Continue to build on music progress by re-evaluating the curriculum.
- Continue to develop children's composition skills and the recording of this.
- Continue to provide staff with Music CPD to develop their confidence and subject knowledge.
- Explore musical engagement opportunities with feeder secondary schools.
- Consider further opportunities for children to perform as a choir in our local community e.g. visiting care homes