



St. John's C of E VA Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 5 th 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 5 th 2026
Name of the school music lead	Andrew Kay
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Andrew Kay
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

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.

*'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination and life to everything!'*

(Plato)

Part A: Curriculum music

The music curriculum at St. John's is based on the online teaching resource 'Charanga'. This online resource helps staff to plan and deliver high quality music which covers all aspects of the music curriculum. (See more detailed music planning on our school website.)

Our music curriculum is fully inclusive for all children. Lessons are fully practical and interactive where children can develop their musical knowledge and understanding as well as performance skills.

Children in EYFS, sing every single day and listen a wide variety of music all the time. Reception pupils have a dedicated weekly 30-minute music lesson.

Children in Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 receive a weekly 30-minute music lesson in curriculum time. In Years 5 and 6, children receive a 60-minute lesson taught by a music specialist from Durham Music Service. School funds the specialist music tuition.

All our children also take part in a whole school weekly praise and worship session led by Mrs Pallister (Headteacher) and Andrew Kay (Deputy Headteacher and music specialist). During these 20-minute sessions, children join together to experience live piano playing and the opportunity to sing with other children and adults. This is a very special time of the week which everyone enjoys very much.

In EYFS and Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2), children have the opportunity to use percussion and non-percussion instruments to accompany singing and to compose their own music. By the end of Year 2, children are expected to develop their understanding of pulse (the 'heartbeat' of the music) and rhythm.

In Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4), all children begin to learn to read formal music notation and to play the glockenspiel. By the end of Year 4, all children are expected to play a melody using 5 notes and to develop their singing skills.

In Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6), children consolidate what they have learnt and extend their musical understanding when playing the glockenspiel. By the end of Year 6, children are expected to be able to sing songs with different parts and to play a melody using 8 notes.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At St. John's, we have always been proud of our musical heritage. It is a fact that all our children, staff, families and governors are passionate about music and performance. It is who we are as a school!

In addition to curriculum music, we offer a weekly opportunity for 10 Year 5 and 6 children to learn to play the ukulele. Our children love the ukuleles and enjoy performing for others. These weekly lessons and instrument hire are fully funded by school.

We have recently started a children and adult Community Choir. Our first rehearsal went so successfully, we shared our song at the Year 6 Leavers' Service in St. John's Church at the end of July 2025! It is an amazing opportunity for parents to join their own children to sing together. We also had a number of local people from the Shildon community and the parish church. We are going to continue and extend our choir over this coming year.

Every Christmas time, all areas of school perform a nativity play or Christmas production for parents and the community to enjoy.

In addition, our Key Stage 2 children performed the full musical performance of 'Grease' on three consecutive nights in July 2025. All the audiences spoke about how confident our children are when singing and acting. One of our governors (who had been a governor in a number of other primary schools) commented, "This is the best primary school show I have ever seen! Absolutely amazing!"

Part C: Musical experiences

At St. John's, we desire to create musical experiences for children to remember and enjoy. Each year, we have welcomed a dynamic Brass group into school as part of *Durham Brass* season. Children and staff particularly enjoy these lively and interactive sessions.

Our whole school visited Glow Church (a local church) in December 2024 to watch a live performance of 'The Gift'. Our Key Stage 2 children recently visited a local secondary academy to watch their summer production.

Every Monday morning, we have our whole school Praise session where children join together to worship.

As much as possible, school funds (or partially funds) all musical experiences for children to help give develop and extend their cultural capital.

In the future

Our aim is to increase the number of visits to musical events such as competitions and concerts in venues such as The Glasshouse in Gateshead.

We are certainly going to develop our new Community Choir and hopefully increase the opportunities to perform in a wider variety of settings and special occasions in our local community.

*'Music is a world in itself,
with a language we all understand.'*

(Stevie Wonder)