

Music development plan summary: St. Johns C.E. Primary School, Kidderminster

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Gretel Osman-Hopes
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Suzanne Finlay
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Philippa Hillman (tuition)

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.

Our music curriculum is designed to fulfil the National Curriculum Music Programmes of Study. This year, due to a change in staffing, we will be developing and using Oak Academy Resources to assist in developing children's skills in listening, performing, composing and evaluating music. This strategy also aims to develop transferable life skills including team working, listening skills, perseverance, fine motor skills and self-confidence.

This curriculum develops pupils as musicians, fostering a deeper understanding of the subject as a platform for a lifelong connection with music. Through performance, composition and engaged listening, pupils develop their musicianship and experience a diverse range of musicians and styles, enabling them to embrace creativity and expression and build their understanding of and confidence in making music both individually and with others.

What overarching curriculum principles inform the design of our curriculum?

Knowledge and vocabulary rich

This principle recognises the important role that knowledge, and vocabulary as a particularly important type of knowledge, play in learning. Oak Academy's curriculum acknowledges the complexities of musical understanding and that knowledge of music needs teaching through interaction with musical sound. As such, there is a focus on practical music-making and engaged listening tasks that develop aural skills. We identify and map vocabulary across the curriculum, both in terms of the introduction of new vocabulary and the necessary repetition of vocabulary that has gone before. New vocabulary, called keywords, are signalled in bold in our lesson materials to indicate their importance.

Sequenced and coherent

A careful and purposeful sequencing of Oak Academy's curriculum content underpins the design of the curriculum, ensuring that pupils are able to build on and make links with existing knowledge. At its simplest this means ensuring, for example, that pupils explore rhythm patterns by clapping before being introduced to musical notation. Attention is paid to vertical coherence via threads, which map the developments of concepts over time. For example, the thread 'Creating, composing and improvising' includes units that are focused on building up the composites in composing successfully. At key stage 1, pupils will explore simple starting points such as unpitched patterns and small note cells, through to using the pentachord and 5-note raags in key stage 2 and the blues scale and major and minor scales in key stage 3.

Evidence-informed

Our evidence-informed approach enables the rigorous application of research outcomes, science of learning and impactful best practice both in education in general and at a subject specific level. For example, the design of the resources reflects findings from Sweller's cognitive load theory and Mayer's principles of multimedia learning whilst the lesson design draws on Rosenshine's principles of instruction.

The curriculum also draw on findings from research organisations such as the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). At the subject level the curriculum focuses on the development of musical understanding through a focus on practical and creative music making and exploration of sound. Creative tasks are supported by pupils achieving the required domain specific knowledge needed to make appropriate musical choices. Performance tasks allow for the time needed for pupils to develop both their technical ability and expressive qualities. Resources consider how to make varied abstract musical knowledge accessible to pupils as concrete information. The curriculum aims to develop pupils as musicians, taking into account the complexity of knowledge of music, how pupils learn in music and the importance of appropriate sequencing in encouraging pupils to make connections across styles and develop a meaningful understanding of music.

Curriculum Time

The current contact teaching time pupils receive in music is:

Reception and Year 1 - 30 mins per week

Years 2-6 – one hour per week, including singing practice.

Music Awards

Through their tuition, pupils are able to take bronze, silver and gold music medal exams.

Part B: Music tuition, Choirs and Ensembles.

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.

Outside of lesson time all Key Stage 2 pupils can learn to play one of the following instruments: Guitar, ukulele, keyboard, saxophone, clarinet, flute and Drumkit. We have a peripatetic teacher once a week in school.

The lessons are taught in small groups in 5-week blocks by the music teacher. Pupils can work through the 5 levels of ABRSM Music Medal Qualifications if they wish or the traditional ABRSM music performance grades. The cost is £5 per lesson but the school pays for those eligible for Pupil Premium or CLA.

We provide a school choir which rehearses once a week for 1 hour. It is open to pupils from Years 2-6 and is completely free of charge. It has regular performance opportunities throughout the year including concerts at local nursing homes, Kemp Hospice, The St. John's Social Club, Kidderminster hospital, performances in school and concerts at St. Johns church. Performing gives pupils a chance to develop their self-confidence, self-esteem and gain a sense of achievement. Due to time constraints and a lack of pupils learning orchestral instruments we currently do not have a school band.

We have a dedicated music classroom that can be used for music lessons and for rehearsals.

Part C: Musical Performances

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 pupils sing together in worship everyday either in class or in the hall.

Pupils in Years 2-6 all perform at St. John's Church once a year through leading a whole school service (2 – Harvest, 3 – Easter, 4 – Pentecost, 5 – Christmas, 6 – Leavers Service).

Years 2-6 also perform a play to their parents in the school hall (2- Great Fire of London, 3 – Stone Age, 4 – Romans, 5 – Vikings, 6 – Leavers Play)

All pupils take part in a Christmas performance / play / service to their parents. The school choir put on regular concerts to parents and perform at school events organised by the PTA. Pupils having instrumental lessons have opportunities to perform to their parents at Christmas time and in the Summer Term. All these performances are Free of charge.

All pupils watch the Year 1 and Reception Nativity play and the Year 6 Leavers play.

In the future

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

We are looking to improve by providing (in collaboration with other schools in our MAT) a trip to a professional concert or to get professional musicians into school as an inspirational experience for our pupils.

As we no longer have a music expert in school, we are aiming to provide CPD for staff to upskill them.

Further information

Our local music hub is Severn arts, their website is: <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/>