

Music development plan summary: St Denys Primary School

At St Denys Primary School we believe that Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical world.

Music has a significant and valuable role to play in the curriculum and in the overall ethos of the school. It brings joy to the listener and develops children's confidence to perform in front of a range of audiences – parents, governors, other children and the public. Music promotes creativity and allows pupils to express themselves individually, in small groups, as a class and as a whole school. It brings communities together and allows the enjoyment and appreciation of music. Music compliments other parts of the curriculum and can aid confidence, co-ordination, working as a team, concentration and the ability to perform in unison.

We are developing our children as confident, responsible citizens with high cultural capital and Music plays a fundamental part in this: music is encouraged and explored in music lessons and beyond through our dashboard curriculum; whole class instrumental lessons develop children's understanding of notation and in assemblies, music can set the atmosphere and mood. We encourage children to become confident about discussing music, creating their own compositions, reading and learning instruments and to appreciate that the digital world can impact musical styles.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Tracy Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Southampton
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 that pupils can achieve.

Informed by the model music curriculum, our music curriculum is coherent, progressive and gives children the opportunity to build key musical skills as they progress through the school, meeting the aims of the national curriculum and providing children with rich experiences to both appreciate, learn and perform music. You can view our full music curriculum [here](#). Our inclusive music lessons are planned and taught by our music specialist teacher, or by class teachers in consultation with the music specialist. Curriculum music is timetabled for each class for 45 - 60 minutes each week and the dashboard curriculum further complements children's musical understanding by exposing them to music from a wide range of cultures and traditions. Furthermore pupils enjoy a Singing Assembly each week for 20 minutes.

Children in Years 3 and 4 have the opportunity to learn to play tuned instruments through whole-class ensemble teaching. Performance is central to our curriculum and all children in the school prepare pieces for performance and perform to an audience at least 3 times per year.

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.

Children have opportunities to access paid for instrumental lessons outside of the timetabled music curriculum, including guitar, piano, clarinet, flute, drums and vocals. These lessons are subsidised by the school to increase access and free lessons are offered to some targeted students. As part of these lessons children have performance opportunities at school concerts and assemblies in addition to using them in class music. Pupils are loaned instruments for the duration of their lessons ensuring they can practice at home. Within these lessons, children are entered for external music examinations as appropriate.

All children have the opportunity to sing as part of a choir, both within their classes and with peers from across the school. We make the most of opportunities to perform and selected students will perform externally as part of the St Denys Choir (e.g. local retirement community).

Our music room is a dedicated space within school where pupils can rehearse and practice individually or in groups and is used throughout the week by individual instrumentalists and ensembles from across the school.

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.

We strongly believe in the importance of performing music for all our pupils, and everyone participates in singing performances at least 3 times per year. Our concerts are highly valued events in our annual calendar and shared with the whole school community including parents. We make use of the local church for our performances which increases the value pupils place on them through using a specific performance venue.

2024-25 planned performance events:

October: Harvest Festival Singing (whole school)

December: EYFS & KS1 Christmas performance, Carol Concert (whole school), Choir visit to residential home

March/April: LKS2 performance, iRock performance

May: Instrumental concert

July: Summer concert (whole school), iRock performance, Y6 Summer Show.

We recognise the value for pupils of seeing live performances and engage fully with our local and the wider community to facilitate this. Events change through the years, depending on what is available but past events include: visit & performance from SUSO, assembly and performance by harpist, rock band performance, trips to local theatres & performance venues e.g. Turner Sims, Nuffield, Mayflower. We continue to seek to ensure a live musical performance for every child in the school at least once per year.

In the future

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

To continue to ensure the Music curriculum is delivered by a Specialist Music Teacher.

To continue to ensure there is a dedicated space such as the music room for pupils to have instrumental lessons and to rehearse at break and lunchtimes.

To continue to make the most of any live music performances being offered to pupils - for example through Southampton Music Hub and feeder secondary schools.

From September 2024: encourage pupils to perform in celebration assembly - our Music Ambassadors could organise a rota for this.

From September 2024: Singing Assembly for both KS1 and KS2 together.