

Music development plan summary: St Peters Cross Keys C of E Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs R Daley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr M Tomlinson
Name of local music hub	Nottinghamshire Music hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Inspire, Minster Learning Alliance

Our Music Curriculum

At St Peter's Cross Keys Academy the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective at St Peter's is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and importance of all types of music. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

Implementation

Our curriculum is planned sequentially, through focusing on the key concepts of Appraising, Composing and Performing. Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum has its foundations in the Being Imaginative and Expressive Early learning Goals (ELG), whilst introducing our children to the very beginning of their musical journey in Appraising, Composing and Performing. The music curriculum ensures students sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate throughout their year groups. Our curriculum takes inspiration from the 'Singup' scheme and has been adapted and enhanced to meet our school community. Children are taught Music weekly for one hour a week. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well

as our choral worship. We take a cross curricular approach to music in class and music is used in topic and as part of our daily class routines to elicit calm, bring joy and boost mood. The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. They also learn how to compose focussing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

Impact

Whilst in school, children have access to a varied programme, which allows students to discover strengths, as well as areas they might like to improve upon. The integral nature of music and the learner creates an enormously rich palette from which a student may access fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection. Music will also develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to students individually, as well as ethnicities from across the world. Children are able to enjoy music, in as many ways as they choose- either as listener, creator or performer. They can dissect music and comprehend its parts. They can sing and feel a pulse. They have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they ever develop a further interest in their lives.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

In St Peter's we are aware that some SEN children may be our most gifted children in music. We also know that some SEN pupils struggle with too much 'noise' in music lessons or are too dysregulated to sit and wait to take turns playing an instrument. We make provision for all our SEN children. Each year a SEN pupil voice in music is carried out. Our recent pupil voice expressed that all our SEN children wanted to play instruments more regularly. Indeed, music making is a perfect fit for pupils with special needs because it engages and appeals to many of their sensory strengths and needs. There has been staff training to teach how we can bring instrumental playing to SEN children in a lot more music lessons.

We recognise that for some pupils working away from the class suits their needs better. SEN pupils now have access to the Garage band app on iPads and electronic drum kits with which they can use headphones. There are noise cancelling headphones available in all music lessons for those children that need it.

Music is a rich and beautiful way to connect pupils and deepen social bond. Science is showing us that Oxytocin, known as the "bonding" or "cuddle" hormone, is released when listening to and making music. We have provide pupils their own personal sound system and they can

listen to music to regulate, this equally enables our SEN pupils create better relationships with peers and teachers/Teaching Assistance too. More importantly music can calm an overstimulated child and create a positive feeling about themselves.

Our school choir is not selective and all children are welcome to join. We have had many SEN pupils who have thrived in this after school club.

<https://farndon-stpeters-cofe.secure-primariesite.net/special-educational-needs-and-disability-informati/>

Instrumental Opportunities

As part of our curriculum year 1 and 2 use a selection of hand percussion instruments to apply knowledge of timing and texture alongside performing their own composition. and Year 2 and 3 learn to play the djembe as part of an ensemble. This provides children an opportunity to perform and apply knowledge through a percussion base.

Instrumental tuition is offered throughout KS1 and KS2. These are offered to children outside of their music class teaching. The musical tuition is conducted by Inspire through Nottinghamshire County Council. For more information on this please see the Music Beyond the Curriculum section of our Development Plan.

Partnerships

Our school music coordinator works closely with the Minster learning Alliance and benefits from an intensive a CPD day course every term.

Next steps

- Ensure that we are providing all staff with High Quality Music CPD through the use of Nottinghamshire music hub.
- Ensure that the use of Seesaw is enhancing the recording the performance elements of music lessons.
- Use the music hub to source and provide children with a wider range of musical opportunities outside of school.

Music outside of the Curriculum

Outside of direct teaching of music we also offer a wide range of musical tuition for children. Musical tuition is offered to children from Inspire - the Arts Support Service from Nottinghamshire County Council. Musical tuition is offered to children from Year 1 -Year 6 taught in both one-to-one and small groups of no more than three. The following instruments are taught in school:

- Piano
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Recorder
- Guitar

Please see our Charging and Remissions Policy for details on the charging of musical tuition:

<https://www.stpetersfarndon.com/charging-and-remission-policy/>

Pupils who receive pupil premium are offered these sessions at a discounted rate, to ensure that this offer is achievable and open to the whole school community. Throughout the academic year pupil voice is conducted to ensure that the correct musical instruments are being taught and that children are inspired and have ambition to learn these instruments. Children who receive these sessions visit classrooms around the school on a termly basis to perform and inspire other children around school to engage with these sessions.

Our school Choir is a huge part of our school and represents us across the year in a variety of different settings and venues outside of school. Our Choir is free of charge and run by Mrs Daley on a weekly basis. The choir uses Singup as a resource and stimulus not only for musical material but also to ensure that there is progression in the singing skill being taught in addition to experiences received in their music lessons in school. They also learn how to sing more forensically, from understanding what their larynx does to knowing how and when to use chest or head voices.

Children further apply their knowledge of timbre and singing as a group as part of our weekly choral worship sessions. As a school we have our 'Liturgical Year in Music' document which is a progressive and purposeful document to ensure that throughout the year we are using choral worship to develop understanding and allowing children to retrieve key knowledge taught in music lessons in a different context as a large group. As part of our Choral Worship sessions our Singing Leaders are a key resource not only as a source of application of knowledge for children but also as an aspiration for all children to become a singing leader when they are in Year 6 and lead the school in singing.

We are involved heavily with Nottinghamshire music hub, Minter Learning Alliance, and Inspire (part of Nottinghamshire County Council) through the use of this engagement, not only does

our music lead receive regular and purposeful CPD it can be passed on to the whole school staff to inform their practice within music also.

Next steps

- Develop the opportunities provided for KS1 to engage in experiencing music.
- Ensure that families in receipt of Pupil Premium know about the offer of musical tuition.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children across school have the opportunity to perform in a variety of ways throughout the academic year, this is done at a year group, large group, small group and individual basis.

Performance opportunities our school offer are:

- The Farndon Factor
- Half-termly performance in Church
- Key Stage 1 and EYFS Nativity
- Upper Key Stage 2 end of year show
- Monthly instrument performance.
- Choir performances

During our monthly parent celebration worship, children who receive piano musical tuition perform as individuals to the whole school and parents alike. This has embedded this instrument in school as children who see this are inspired to perform also and take up music sessions outside of school.

As a school we visit our local church of St Peters Farndon to celebrate Christian events throughout the year including Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. As part of these events we sing as a whole school with each year group going up to the sanctuary and performing their own song/instruments and learnt/ensemble performance to the church congregation.

Our school Choir engage throughout the year in local events such as singing at a local residential home at Christmas and entertaining locals at Carols on the Green

Our school will host the first choir family singing celebration this year within our school Multi Academy Trust. As part of this the schools within our trust and the local area will meet at our school to sing as part of a large united choir as well as perform individual songs learnt in each setting.

Next steps

- Arts week will have opportunities for children to learn from musical experts.
- Engage with Local secondary schools for students/teachers to visit school/we visit their school and engage in concerts and aspirational sessions to encourage children.

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