

## Music development plan summary: St Cuthbert's CofE Junior School

At St Cuthbert's Junior School, we have timetabled music lessons in all year groups as well as music appreciation in every class every morning. We use the charanga music scheme for our lessons which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music. When using the scheme and its progressive week-by-week lessons, we are guaranteeing to be meeting all the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and progress is evident through observations, class books and our progression documents.

Discussions with children have demonstrated an increasing knowledge of key music vocabulary being recalled. Observations have shown all pupils engaged and active during the lessons, including SEND. We have a wide range of instruments that can be used in the lessons and our curriculum. Our music appreciation ensures a variety of music and genres are listened to and discussed. Teachers are confident with musical elements and teaching children how to listen and appreciate a piece of music.

Our music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom through the structured music programme Charanga as well as the weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, musical clubs and teaching from specialist music teachers. 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. In the classroom children learn key aspects of music through cross-curricular links. They also learn how to compose, focusing 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.

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	11/02/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/09/2026
Name of the school music lead	Frances Hazell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Overseen by Helen Mullinger
Name of local music hub	Somerset Music Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

## 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.

The teaching and learning of music focuses on a range of agreed entitled experiences. We follow the Charanga Musical School Units of Work which enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. We have developed a clear progression of knowledge and skills linked to the essential learning objectives of the music curriculum. These are set out as threshold concepts and milestones for each Key Stage. We ensure that appropriate opportunities are taken to develop the major cross-curricular skills such as English, Mathematics and Computing skills. We support pupils to develop an overview of world music by drawing links between time periods, significant events and significant people including an understanding of chronology, change and causation.

The Charanga assessment framework links musical school teaching and learning to step-by-step assessment as welcomed by Ofsted in England. The Charanga teaching scheme uses a Plan-Do-Check-Review approach, supported by planning and assessment documentation, with the facility for you to upload and store digital evidence – all designed to help teacher clearly demonstrate the progression of students' musical knowledge, understanding and skills. Threshold concepts for this subject cover each phase (KS1, LKS2 and UKS2), these concepts form the basis of learning objectives for each lesson taught. These are based on the National Curriculum programme of study. Teachers use the Charanga Teacher Assessment to assess each unit against the expected standard as well as greater depth. Learning objectives are shared with children each lesson. Threshold concepts are repeated throughout each phase so that children gain a deep understanding of them, rather than moving on to the threshold concepts for later year groups. Children are given a context or musical genre through which they can explore each learning objective. Progress milestones for each threshold concept are used to inform and create steps of success, which are referred to throughout lessons. Teaching is focused on input, experiences and activities which promote the development of each threshold concept so that children can achieve the milestones specific to their phase. Teachers use observations and work recorded by children to make judgements of the children's current progress against their year group's expectations. Assessment information is used to plan future work for the class. This continual assessment is used to report to parents. End of year academic reports contain comments about an individual pupil's progress against the year group expectations, threshold concepts and progress milestones. All formative and summative assessments made is used to inform discussions around pupils' progress and attainment in the subject at appropriate times, for example discussions with other

professionals and reporting to parents on during parent consultation evening etc. Children take part in progressive warm-up games and challenges within each unit that embed pulse, rhythm and pitch

## **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.

At St Cuthbert's Junior School, we are fortunate to have many opportunities for the children to develop their music skills. Pupils have the opportunity to have music tuition from a peripatetic teacher who is available to teach guitar, violin and piano. Children perform to whole school assembly and celebrate their progress.

We have Rock Steady Music in school who offer electric guitar, electric keyboard and drums to pupils who would like to play in a band. They perform to parents and the whole school at the end of every term.

We also offer pupils opportunities to develop their singing skills through joining the school choir. They sing and perform a wide range of music from contemporary, topical to classical. Pupils are also able to join the school choir where they are able to experience playing glockenspiel, hand bells, tambourines and drums. The band often accompanies the music sang by the choir. The choir and band are free of charge to give all pupils the opportunity to join.

## **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.

At St Cuthbert's Junior School, we have singing assemblies that take place with a wide range of songs being learnt and performed. The children take part with confidence and enthusiasm. Throughout the year our children enjoy taking part in a Christmas church service, Easter service and the Year 6 leavers service which are singing and musical performances and are performed to parents and peers.

There are opportunities for children who learn an instrument to share this with parents throughout the year too. We value giving our pupils opportunities to take part in a range of musical experiences. We offer pupils the opportunity to join the school choir and school band free of charge. The choir and band perform at all services that occur

throughout the year. They also are very active within the local community and visit residential care homes to perform for residents. The choir and band have also linked with a local adult choir called The Good Afternoon Choir, and have performed alongside them at a concert.

We have attended performances of classical music at the local Wells Cathedral School where the pupils saw a range of instruments being played.

## In the future

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

In future years to come, we will continue to build on our music progress by re-evaluating the current curriculum when there are changes in the national curriculum and model music curriculum. We are going to continue to develop children's composition skills and the recording of this. We will continue to develop our school choir and children's performance skills with more opportunities to perform throughout the year. We would love to provide our children with more opportunities to watch live music performances and continue to develop a strong pupil voice. Furthermore, we will continue to provide our staff with CPD to continue to develop their confidence and subject knowledge.