



Music development plan summary: St Nicholas CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the school music lead	Marie-Claire Davies
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Barbara Ghezzi
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Create Music

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.

[St Nicholas Music Curriculum Information](#)

Our school delivers its core music curriculum using [Charanga's Creative Music Scheme](#). This framework provides a carefully sequenced, progressive curriculum that fully satisfies the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Music. Music is taught explicitly for a minimum of 45 minutes per week. This ensures that children have regular, high-quality exposure to musical learning and that music maintains a clear and valued place within our wider curriculum.

The curriculum features a highly sequenced structure of units, providing comprehensive Teacher Guides, Medium-Term overviews, and structured week-by-week lesson plans.

We implement a spiral pedagogy where foundational knowledge and musical elements are systematically revisited and extended in increasingly sophisticated contexts. This allows pupils to develop deeper independence and musical responsibility over time, rather than simply repeating familiar tasks. Teachers use ongoing formative assessment within lessons to identify next steps and ensure pupils build secure musical understanding as they move through the school.

Following the Scheme's approach, musical learning develops fluidly through eight interconnected strands:

- **Focused Listening:** *Engaging deeply with diverse genres, styles, and musical traditions.*
- **Musical Elements & Notation:** *Demystifying and applying formal musical literacy step-by-step.*
- **Singing & Instrumental Practice:** *Developing physical vocal and instrumental techniques sequentially.*
- **Improvisation & Composition:** *Using industry-leading digital tools (such as YuStudio and Music Notepad) built natively into every lesson to amplify each child's unique creative voice.*
- **Performance Opportunities:** *Sharing solo and ensemble work to celebrate musical growth and self-confidence.*

Across these strands, pupils experience music from many different cultures and traditions, giving them a genuinely diverse musical experience.

The Creative Music Scheme provides built-in differentiation guidance to support less confident learners while stretching advanced pupils. To ensure equity of access, staff can complement these paths with the platform's **Anyone Can Play** SEND scheme, ensuring accessible digital instrument tools, adapted pathways, and scaffolded resources for pupils with special educational needs. This supports our commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of need or starting point, can participate fully and experience success in music.

In addition to the teaching delivered through Charanga, we partner with Create Music <https://wecreatemusic.co.uk/>. Lessons are taught from their own curriculum which has been designed to engage young students through the use of contemporary musical styles and modern teaching methods. Year 3 have weekly, whole class ukulele lessons focussing on notation, composition and performance. This provides children with a valuable early KS2 instrumental experience and helps build confidence in reading notation and performing as an ensemble.

Part B: Music Tuition, Choirs & 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.

As part of our link with Create Music, pupils have the chance to sign up to additional music lessons to learn an instrument. This year children across Years 1, 2 and 3 have the chance to learn the guitar, taught in small groups. This gives children an early experience of instrumental tuition and helps build confidence in performing beyond the classroom.

Through the year a range of extra-curricular school clubs run. Over the year we try to ensure at least one of these have a music theme and children often have the opportunity to partake in mini performances at school events, e.g. the Christmas Fayre. These clubs provide valuable opportunities for children to sing, play and perform in a more informal setting, helping them develop teamwork and musical confidence.

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 Nicholas, we provide aim to provide children with a variety of opportunities to showcase their musical talents beyond the classroom.

At St Nicholas, children have the opportunity to sing songs during our weekly Singing Collective Worship. They learn these songs as a whole school and have the opportunity to perform these in events through the year, for example the Harvest Festival or in Collective Worship when parents/carers are invited.

All children perform at Christmas, this enables children to rehearse and perform to their peers and to their families. Early Years children (Nursery and Reception) perform a Christmas production together. In Key Stage 1 children perform together. This is our first year of Year 3 children and we are planning their Christmas performance opportunity. These performances help children develop confidence, teamwork and pride in presenting music to an audience.

Along with opportunities to perform in school, we have a strong partnership with the local church, St Mary-le-More. Biennially productions are held in partnership with the church choir and other local schools. Recent performances include Captain Noah, Jonah Man Jazz and this year we will be performing Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat.

Children from across the school have the option to participate, joining a choir club in the term before the event to learn and rehearse the songs. This partnership gives children the chance to be part of a larger musical community and experience performing in a professional space.

Additionally, we aim to offer children the experience to see professional artists or performances to experience music being played by others. Examples include a performance from Create Music show casing different instruments and enabling children the change to try them out too.

In the future

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

As our school grows to a full primary, we are planning provision of music teaching for future years, specifically for Years 4, 5 and 6. We will review the provision offered through the curriculum as well as opportunities for taught instrument teaching. We will also be reviewing performance opportunities along with extra-curricular offers to further develop the opportunities available to all. A key part of this work will be ensuring a clear progression pathway from EYFS through to Year 6, so children build musical skills steadily and confidently as they move through KS2.

We also plan to explore widening instrumental opportunities, including the potential for small ensembles or beginner groups so older children can rehearse and perform together.

As our offer develops, we will continue to strengthen staff confidence through ongoing CPD and by making use of specialist support where helpful. This will help ensure that music remains a valued and high-quality part of our curriculum as the school expands.