

Music development plan summary: St Mary's C.E. Primary School, Clymping



Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025 - 2026 |
| Date this summary was published | January 2026 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | January 2027 |
| Name of the school music lead | Annabelle Ellis |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Justin Murray |
| Name of local music hub | West Sussex Music |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Peripatetic Teaching |

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.

Music plays a vibrant and valued role in our curriculum, with every pupil taking part in a weekly, high-quality music lesson. These sessions are built around the Charanga music programme, a comprehensive and engaging scheme that supports children in developing musical skills progressively from year to year. Charanga offers a rich blend of listening, singing, improvisation, composition and performance opportunities. Its structured approach ensures that pupils experience a wide range of musical genres, learn key musical vocabulary, and build confidence in expressing themselves musically. The programme's interactive resources also help pupils internalise rhythm, pitch and notation in an accessible and enjoyable way.

All music lessons are taught as whole-class sessions, allowing pupils to learn collaboratively and benefit from shared musical experiences. This approach encourages teamwork, creativity and a sense of collective achievement, particularly during group performances and ensemble work.

To enrich our provision further, we are fortunate to have a dedicated Music HUB within the school. This space provides access to a wide variety of musical instruments, enabling pupils to explore sound, experiment with composition and develop practical musicianship. The HUB supports both structured lessons and more exploratory musical activities, giving children hands-on experience with instruments they may not encounter elsewhere.

A key strength of our offer is our involvement in the Term to Learn initiative. Through this programme, pupils receive specialist tuition from West Sussex Music educators, who bring expert knowledge and high-quality instruction into the classroom. Over recent years, pupils have benefited from focused teaching in drums, clarinets, recorders and ukuleles. These sessions give children the chance to learn specific instrumental techniques, perform as part of an ensemble and develop discipline and perseverance through regular practice.

Together, these elements create a rich, inclusive and inspiring music curriculum that nurtures every child's musical potential and fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

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.

Our co-curricular music offer significantly enriches pupils' musical development and provides a wide range of opportunities for children to explore and extend their talents beyond the classroom. A central part of this provision is our peripatetic teaching programme. Specialist piano tuition is available to pupils, and we are committed to ensuring that access is fair and inclusive. To support this, we fund or part-fund lessons for a number of disadvantaged pupils, enabling them to benefit from high-quality, personalised instruction that nurtures confidence, technical skill and musical expression.

Alongside piano, we work closely with West Sussex Music to provide ukulele and guitar lessons through their peripatetic service. These sessions allow pupils to develop instrumental technique, understand musical notation and enjoy the experience of playing in small groups. The variety of instruments available encourages children to follow their interests and discover new musical pathways.

Our co-curricular offer also includes a thriving school choir, open to pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. The choir is well attended and provides a joyful space for children to develop vocal skills, teamwork and performance confidence. This year, the choir is taking part in O2 Young Voices, giving pupils the unforgettable experience of performing as part of one of the largest school choirs in the world. They also sing regularly at local events, residential homes and church services, strengthening community links and sharing the joy of music with others.

To celebrate pupils' achievements, we host music recitals with invited audiences, showcasing high-quality outcomes and encouraging pupils to perform with pride. Each year, we also hold an Arts Evening, bringing together music, art and performance to highlight the breadth of creative opportunity 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.

Our pupils benefit from a rich and varied programme of musical experiences that extend far beyond the classroom, helping them develop confidence, creativity and a deep appreciation for the performing arts. One of the most memorable opportunities is our participation in Young Voices at the O2 Arena, where pupils join thousands of children from across the country to perform in one of the world's most iconic venues. This large-scale event gives them an inspiring sense of achievement and the thrill of singing as part of a mass choir.

We are strongly committed to building community connections through music. Our choir regularly performs at residential care homes, sharing joy with older members of the

community and strengthening intergenerational links. Pupils also contribute to worship and church events, where music enhances reflection and celebration, and they proudly open our summer fayre each year with a live performance that brings the whole school community together.

A highlight of our creative calendar is our annual Arts Evening, where the choir performs alongside a live band. This event showcases the breadth of musical talent across the school and gives pupils the rare experience of singing with professional musicians. We also broaden pupils' cultural horizons through theatre visits to experience live musical performances, helping them understand music in its wider artistic context.

Our partnership with Christ's Hospital School provides further enrichment, with pupils taking part in specialist music days that expose them to new instruments, ensembles and high-level tuition.

This year, we introduced music recitals, inviting pupils to perform to an audience in a supportive setting. These events celebrate individual progress, encourage performance confidence and welcome families and guests into our school to share in pupils' achievements.

In the future

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

In the future, we aim to strengthen our music provision by building on the seven features of high-quality music education to ensure every pupil continues to thrive musically. We will expand opportunities for regular performance, offering more chances for pupils to share their music through recitals, community events and whole-school celebrations. Our curriculum will continue to promote clear progression, using Charanga and our Music HUB to deepen pupils' skills in performing, composing and listening.

We remain committed to inclusion, widening access to peripatetic lessons and supporting disadvantaged pupils to learn instruments. By continuing to work with West Sussex Music and exploring new partnerships, we will enhance expert teaching and broaden pupils' musical experiences.

We will strengthen leadership and sustainability by embedding pupil leadership roles in choir and ensembles, and by celebrating music through events such as Arts Evening and the summer fayre. Finally, we will continue to enrich community and cultural connections, ensuring music remains a vibrant, valued part of school life.

Further information (optional)

The following link may be useful: [Sussex Music Hub | West Sussex Music](#)