

Music development plan summary: St John and St Nicolas Schools

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	21 st August 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Claire Jones (St John's) and Keith Harvey (St Nicolas)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Berkshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Berkshire Music Trust and Good Vibes

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.

In the St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love'.

We believe music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils think, act and feel. It enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community.

We will provide opportunities for all the children to create, play, perform and enjoy music and to develop the skills of music appreciation. Music will be an integral part of all areas of the curriculum and not only taught as a discrete subject.

The curriculum offered aims to

- promote aesthetic sensitivity and creativity
- increase understanding of music by exploring musical elements and a wide range of musical styles and conventions
- develop practical musical skills
- enable children to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

The music curriculum is taught as a subject in its own right, although additional opportunities for cross-curricular links are also utilised.

The specific learning focus for each term is identified in line with the “Charanga” scheme of work. This scheme ensures progression and curriculum coverage across the key stages in line with the model music curriculum.

As well as the curriculum provision in place, there are opportunities in both schools for children to learn to play an instrument through Berkshire Music Trust and Good Vibes, as well as choir and singing opportunities across the schools.

Part B: Extra-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.

The schools offer additional music opportunities as follows:

St John’s:

- Year 2 Choir with opportunities to sing in church and at school events
- Ukelele lessons through Good Vibes

St Nic’s:

- Instrument lessons with a wide variety of possible instruments to learn through Berkshire Music Trust and Good Vibes

- A school choir run by Good Vibes, with the specific aim of preparation for Young Voices
- Mass choir opportunities including Young Voices and Berkshire Music Festival
- In addition to this, the schools promote other opportunities for music including through external lessons through Berkshire Music Trust and Good Vibes and through available ensembles, orchestras and choirs.

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.

St John's:

- Choir performances at school events and church services
- Singing at local care home
- Daily singing in assemblies
- Christmas and end of year performances

St Nic's:

- Young Voices – massed choir opportunity
- Berkshire Music Festival – massed choir opportunity
- Daily singing in assemblies
- Christmas and end of year performances

In the future

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

The school is looking to develop staff subject knowledge in music further, so that the provision through the music curriculum can be developed from early years to the end of Year 6.

With increased staff confidence, children's music education and music ability will allow them to make good progress and to be ready for secondary education.

Additionally, we are looking to increase the number of children accessing our extra-curricular music provision.