

Music Development Plan Summary: St Nicholas Church of England First School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2026
Name of the school music lead	R Gough/J Parker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	R Gough/J Parker
Name of local music hub	Entrust Staffordshire (The Music Partnership for Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Entrust Staffordshire (The Music Partnership for Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin) Rocksteady Music School

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.

Our St Nicholas Music Curriculum

The Music Curriculum at St Nicholas adopts a hybrid model, where at least 30 minutes per week is dedicated to the teaching of Music. This model sees pupils from Year 1 to Year 4 having external teaching from specialist Music teachers from the local music hub; the school started to invest in this from the 2022 – 2023 academic year, and as such, has continued to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of this on children's learning, enjoyment, and experiences in Music, in addition to the professional learning

development opportunities for staff. When pupils are not having external teaching from the local music hub, this is facilitated by the class teacher and is underpinned by the Charanga Music Scheme, which is built on the principles of the Department for Education Model Music Curriculum (MMC); the transition to using the MMC principled scheme was implemented across the school from September 2022. Each unit of learning ([which can be found here](#)) across our school is underpinned by a 'Learning Enquiry Social Question', which helps our children to recognise the impact Music can have on different parts of life and the world. Teaching staff received training and development support in May 2022 around the MMC and the scheme that was being implemented as of September 2022.

We have extensively mapped out the following for our curriculum:

- The 'Music Concepts' we intend for our children to learn and progress in (get better at over time ([see here](#)))
- Key overview of the 'What?'; 'How?' and 'Why?' through our Music policy ([see here](#)). In our policy, we outline how we are increasing access for disabled pupils and supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND).
- How our units of learning connect the concepts of Music ([see here](#))
- Essential substantive knowledge children will learn ([see here](#))
- The disciplinary knowledge children will develop over time, which is linked against the Music concepts ([see here](#)) – NB: We recognise that learning is not a linear process and therefore we set out the disciplinary knowledge for our subjects by Key Stage building blocks to ensure there is fluidity.

Our school's Music curriculum is a 'spiral curriculum', which means key knowledge and concepts are continually revisited and built upon. We recognise the importance of a deeper and more meaningful approach to learning (a mastery approach), and therefore have set out types of instruments our children will learn throughout an academic year. An Ofsted research review found that where children learn to play too many instruments, this results in a 'surface-level' approach, and as such, they were not proficient in instrument playing. Therefore, our instrument focuses are as follows:

Year 1 and Year 2: Percussion (as set out within the National Plan for Music Education, which states, *'Initially, pupils should experience the mechanics of how instruments create sound, exploring simple class instruments, such as simple hand or tuned percussion and recorders, in early years/key stage 1.'*)

Year 3: Recorders

Year 4: Glockenspiel (this offer greater complexity with the type and scale of notes that can be played)

Children to learn to play these instruments to songs that are connected to their learning, as part of the Charanga scheme. Therefore, pupils not only sing or play with an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in all year groups but are also supported to do with this proficiency. Each unit of learning ([which can be found here](#)) across our school supports our children to learn and know

more about, and most importantly, listen to and appreciate a wide range of genres and musicians.

Partnerships and Qualifications

St Nicholas has a long-lasting partnership with Entrust Music Service, who provide peripatetic lessons (see next section for more information) in keyboard, guitar, flute, and violin; this involves children building up 'graded' qualifications. We have also invested in from January 2024, Rocksteady Music School, where children are able to attain regulated qualifications as recognised by Ofqual. Lessons and experiences from both partnerships are 30 minutes per week.

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.

Beyond the Classroom Tuition

Vocal Group

- Year 2 to Year 4
- 75 minutes per week
- Approximately 25 children
- Focus on singing (with some basic instrumental use too)
- Dedicated space and member of staff (Mrs S Lowe) are provided for these weekly sessions
- Performance to a wider audience (whole-school, to parents, and in Church services)
- In 2025 – 2026, prospect of taking part in Young Voices experience.

Entrust Music Service

- Year 1 to Year 4
- Peripatetic lessons in keyboard, guitar, flute, and violin
- 30 minutes per week
- Small-group tuition for instruments
- Graded examinations
- Dedicated spaces are provided for these tuition lessons

Rocksteady Music School

- Early Years to Year 4
- Small-group tuition for instruments and voice (vocal and instrumental ensembles)
- 30 minutes per week (£10 each week); the school and Rocksteady are also committed to providing these experiences for disadvantaged pupils
- Children can attain regulated qualifications as recognised by Ofqual
- A dedicated room is provided for this

Christmas Choir

- Year 4
- Large group choir ensemble led by a member of staff (Mrs G Manning)
- This is free and takes place across November and December each academic year (30 to 45 minutes per week)
- Pupils perform a range of Christmas Carols to members of a nearby care home
- A dedicated room is provided for this

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.

Vocal Group

Vocal Group is an approximately 25-pupil strong group of children led by Mrs Lowe, who engage in a range of seasonal and event-related music. This involves performances in Church, to the whole-school in Worship, and participation to wider audiences, such as parents and visits to experiences such as Young Voices. This is attended on a weekly basis for 75 minutes and involves children from Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Worship and Church Services

As a Church School, Worship takes place on a daily basis (this is in various forms such as a whole-school, in key stages, in year groups, and/or in classes). This sees children engaging with a range of hymns, and for those who wish to, to engage spiritually with the meaning of hymns. This also sees children play instruments in our whole-school Worships to support the singing of hymns.

Rocksteady Concert

This takes place each term and is designed for the different 'bands' to perform to parents. The most recent concert took place in July 2024 and was attended by 84 of

our parental community. Each year group (on rotation) are offered the opportunity to listen and appraise these concerts on a termly basis.

St Nics' Got Talent

A 2-year initiative led by the School Council to support all children across the school to engage children in showcasing and celebrating their musical talents. This includes solo and duo vocal performances; instrument playing; dances supported by the themes of music etc. (this is not an exhaustive list).

School Shows

The school regularly hosts shows such as nativities, the leavers' play and year group based concerts (i.e. Nursery Carol Concert) on a regular basis, all of which are underpinned by the power of Music at the very forefront of performances. Children learn to engage with and sing a wide range of Music.

In the future

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

What we planned to do in 2024 – 2025:

- Build on the successes of the Christmas Choir and establish a more prominent and high-profile school choir (from Year 1 to Year 4), who have dedicated time and space for rehearsals, including sharing a termly school performance, and will led by a designated member of staff **(Objective Met)**
- Increase the number of disadvantaged pupils (i.e SEND and Pupil Premium) who are engaging in co-curricular tuition **(Objective Met – more SEND/PP pupils are engaging in co-curricular Music, such as the Vocal Group and Rocksteady sessions)**
- Broaden children's wider knowledge of traditional and more contemporary musicians and genres **(Objective Met)**
- Introducing a termly performance open to all pupils from Early Years to Year 4 to showcase their love of Music **(Objective In Progress)**
- Work with schools across our trust to bring together the joy for music and allow each choir to visit each of our schools so they have the opportunity, experience and confidence to perform in front of an audience they do not necessarily know (St Nicholas will be at the forefront of building and developing this partnership and experience) **(Objective In Progress)**

What we plan to do in 2025 – 2026:

- Build on the objectives that are in progress (as per above)

- Further tighten the assessment practices in Music to ensure that is efficient yet effective in a way that cultivates both a clear balance of support and ambition for all.
- Carry out a detailed audit of resources for Music across the school to ensure that there is clear breadth and depth.
- Work in partnership with PTFA to invest in new musical instruments that will better facilitate the school's Music curriculum (as currently relies on instruments provided on loan from Local Authority).

Priorities for the academic year 2026 – 2027 will be devised following evaluation and review of the academic year 2025 – 2026.

Further information

- Information about our Local Music Hub can be found here: <https://www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/>
- Information about our St Nicholas Curriculum can be found here: <https://st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk/curriculum/>
- Information our St Nicholas Music Curriculum can be found here: <https://st-nicholas.staffs.sch.uk/music/>