

Music development plan summary: St Helen's CE Primary School

Overview

| Detail | Information |
|--|----------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2024-2025 |
| Date this summary was published | October 2024 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2025 |
| Name of the school music lead | Amanda Kember |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | |
| Name of local music hub | Kent Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Dynamics |

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. Helen's is proud of the music provision in place. Each week, a specialist music teacher from Dynamics leads music sessions across the school (Y2,4,6 – Terms 1,3,5 and Y1,3,5 in terms 2,4,6. EYFS have sessions in term 4,5,6). This session covers singing, appraising music including individual performances across a range of instruments as well as the reinforcement of musical terminology, control, pitch, rhythm and conducting. The work carried out by the music specialist is further embedded in classroom activities as well as focussed singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments and the joining of extra-curricular activities.

The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children can use the language of music to discuss it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom, students learn how to play various un-tuned and tuned

percussion instruments and as a class learn how to play the ukulele (Y4 and Y6 and glockenspiel (Y3 and Y5). In doing so, they understand the different principles of creating notes, as well as how to devise and read their own musical scores and basic music notation. They also learn how to compose focussing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion, vocal sounds and technology is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

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 Helen's CE Primary School, we currently offer a range of opportunities for our children to access music:

- Pupils have the opportunity to receive lessons for a number of instruments including the fife, flute, violin and a range of brass. In order to make these as accessible as possible, these lessons are offered free of charge for 2 years and then should the pupils wish to continue a small contribution is requested.
- We have a well-established choir which comprises about 45 pupils from Years 2 -6. The choir often perform at the end of term celebrations. They also work towards Young Voices at the O2 as well as concerts which take place at the Central Theatre with other local primary schools.
- Year 5 take part in the Medway Choral festival at Rochester Cathedral, singing with schools across Medway.
- Year 1 and 2 participate in the Medway Music Association Choral festival at The Central Theatre alongside other Medway primary schools. This is free of charge for the children and parents have the opportunity to watch them sing on the stage.
- Rocksteady Music - Rock Steady are an inclusive music provider that fits into the school day and routines. Children don't have an instrument loaned to practice on, there's no experience necessary and all instruments are provided, so it is inclusive and accessible. Children can choose from vocals, keyboard, drums, bass, or electric guitar (subject to availability). They'll join their bandmates for a weekly 30-minute lesson, where they'll learn some of their favourite songs. Children and family can proudly watch as bands perform in an end of term concert, showing how far they have come. Parents can follow their musical journey in your Backstage Account for regular updates on their progress and occasional photos or videos of them in lessons. The band leader will support and inspire child while making sure they progress at their own pace. Children will work towards an official, exam-free, Ofqual-regulated music qualification, with Trinity College London, at no extra cost and the longer a child stays with Rocksteady, the further they will progress! Parents contribute the cost of tuition. We currently

have 34 children that take part, making up 5 bands. Of these 34 children there are 15 boys and 19 girls, 2 PPG children and 2 SEND children.

Part C: Musical events

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.

Pupils perform the following performances:

- Choir – weekly practise for choir members Yr 1- 6, Young Voices concerts, Medway Music Festival, Carol singing, singing at school events.
- Medway Music Association events – Y1 and Y2 perform at the Central Theatre as a collective group of schools and a solo themed based song, Y5 perform at the Carol Service held in Rochester Cathedral and the Choir perform at the music festival at the Central Theatre.
- Class assemblies – Children get a chance to perform either singing or playing instruments in their class assemblies that happen once a year.
- Singing Assemblies – Weekly singing assemblies take place for the whole school to sing a variety of songs together.
- Music Sharing assemblies – Pupils get the chance twice a year to share what they have been learning in their music lessons in front of the rest of the school. This gives all pupils a chance to perform in front of an audience.
- Rocksteady – All Rocksteady members perform a termly concert to the whole school and parents to share what they have been doing in lessons.
- Christmas Performances – Reception perform a Christmas musical, Y1 and Y2 perform a Christmas nativity play to the whole school and parents. Y3,4,5 and 6 perform a carol concert performance parents.
- Leavers assembly – Year 6 children rehearse and perform their leavers assembly every year. This is a mix of speaking, singing, performing and presenting. This is watched by the whole school and parents at the church.
- Harvest festival, Christingle, Remembrance – All children get the opportunity to perform in the Harvest Festival in school. This is either singing, performing or speaking (poems, readings etc)

Pupils watch the following performances:

- Rocksteady – All children get the opportunity to watch the Rocksteady bands and leaders perform.
- Dress rehearsals – All children get to watch dress rehearsals of other classes performances.
- Young Voices – At the Young Voices concert, not only do the choir get to perform at a world-class venue, but they also get the chance to experience a

live band and singers. Some singers are well-known for example from Britain's Got Talent and the X Factor. They also get to watch these artists perform during rehearsal and the live concert.

In the future

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

In the future we would like to:

- Ensure that staff receive appropriate CPD when required.
- Continue to fund music instrument lessons for children and subsidise lessons for those wishing to continue.
- Continue to work alongside Kent Music and consider the introduction of other instruments being learnt.

Further information (optional)

Please use this link to find out any further information about Kent music hub:

<https://www.kent-music.com/>

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.