

Music development plan summary: St. Luke's C.E. Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Louise Lowe
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Kingston Music Service / SWL 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.

At St. Luke's C.E Primary School, we make music an active and influential part of everyday school life, being something that is celebrated, endorsed and encouraged in all aspects of our learning and living.

There is a deep focus on the development of musical skills at the heart of our music curriculum, informed by the ideas and concepts presented within the model music curriculum (March 2021). In order to become musicians, the children begin building their skills and knowledge through song and experimenting with sound. As they progress through the school, they develop their listening, performing and composing, learning to use formal written notation and musical language. Adaptive lessons are planned so that all children can be included at all times and in order to make sure that pupils of all backgrounds and skill levels are challenged and make progress. Pupils with

SEND are supported through adaptations such as larger or smaller instruments, visual cue cards and labelling keys etc.

Children have access to music through topic-based activities and weekly music lessons taught by a teacher with music specialism. We follow the Charanga music scheme (which is supported by Kingston Music Service) to develop aspects of musicianship alongside Music Express Online, both aligned to the National Curriculum for Music and the Model Music Curriculum. These schemes offer a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Whilst music Express is primarily aimed at mainstream settings, it promotes inclusive values by including SEND comments alongside the activities to offer teaching support, with suggestions for diversifying activities with the purpose of improving inclusivity in the classroom.

Music in the Early Years

Children begin their formal music journey in Reception through child-initiated activities and planned curriculum music. Each half-term, children are introduced to a different musical element through the whole class sessions (30 / 40 minutes per week), during which they sing, play, listen, respond and move to music, and are then encouraged to explore this through enhanced continuous provision. They have access to a range of musical instruments to explore, both in and out of doors. The children learn nursery rhymes and short rhythms and patterns as part of their language development in phonics / reading sessions (Little Wandle). They also attend weekly singing assemblies alongside the rest of the school, to learn and perform collectively.

Music in Key Stage 1 and 2

Pupils at St. Luke's Primary School have a dedicated music lesson every week with the music specialist (Y1 - 30/40 minutes, Y2/3 – 45 minutes, and Y5/6 – 60 minutes). All lessons are underpinned by the principles of listening and appraising, performing and creating music, and opportunities for these have been woven into each year group. The children have a wide access to a range of whole class instruments; these include glockenspiels, djembe drums, ocarinas and untuned percussion. Each lesson begins with retrieval to ensure learning is revisited and retained, undertaking activities that support students in their understanding of duration, pulse, rhythm and pitch. It is designed to bring everyone together at the beginning of the lesson to learn, embed or revisit the music theory required for the unit and year.

Children in Year 4 learn an instrument as a whole-class ensemble taught by music specialists from Kingston Music Service as part of the Wider Opportunities programme. This includes reading notation, chord structures and performance. For this academic year, ukulele is the chosen instrument, although the djembe drum and clarinet have been options previously.

Children in Year 2 spend a term learning ocarina as a whole-class ensemble. This is taught by the music specialist, utilising resources from Ocarina Workshop.

Our singing curriculum is supported by a weekly whole-school hymn practice lasting 20 minutes, where a combination of sacred and secular songs, both traditional and contemporary, are covered, incorporating whole songs, rounds and part singing. To create a culture of musical appreciation and understanding within St. Luke's, each hymn practice begins with a 'Musician of the Month' retrieval activity before new input is given, with a focus on a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music, carefully drawn from different traditions, composers and musicians. This enables us to offer children a range of diverse experiences and knowledge over the course of their time in primary school, with direct links to the protected characteristics that span a vast range of musical traditions, western classical musicians and popular music.

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. Luke's C.E Primary School, we currently offer individual lessons for piano through Kingston Music Service, and have a number of children on the waiting list for violin, ukulele and acoustic guitar. Individual lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are Pupil Premium, these lessons can be funded by the Pupil Premium provision. The school has a dedicated music space for whole class teaching and these peripatetic lessons, which take place after school.

This year, Y2 - 6 are participating in the 'Lifting Young Voices' project, which is funded by the Diocese of Southwark, Cathedral Music Trust, The Ouseley Trust and the PCC of All Saints Church. This project is specially designed for schools, and led by a music lead experienced with dealing with children in a school setting. This well-established program has been written for the curriculum. Singing has many benefits for brain development in children, including an improved sense of hearing, memory and concentration and has also been shown to actually accelerate brain development, notably in language acquisition, reading and maths skills. The Programme includes a termly concert at All Saints which hosts a large and experienced cathedral quality choir with links to Tiffins, Cambridge university etc

A number of Y3 children have joined a "STARter Group" to learn either the trumpet, baritone, or trombone. These are engaging, weekly lessons, administered directly by Kingston Music Service. There is a cost to the lessons, but this is kept to a minimum due to Arts Council Funding. After a year of learning, there will be a workshop with other brass schools in Kingston and a concert for parents.

We currently have a successful Junior Choir that meets weekly, made up of Yr 4 – 6. This is free of charge and accessible to all, and is led by the school's music specialist.

We work closely with Kingston Music Service to ensure we can offer the best possible music opportunities for our children. It is the lead organisation for the Kingston Music Education Hub which is funded by Arts Council England. The service provides instrumental and vocal music lessons to young people in Kingston's schools and music centres. If you would like your child to learn an instrument, please contact KMS directly either by email at musicservice@kingston.gov.uk or by telephone on 020 8547 5050.

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.

Music is a prominent feature within class assemblies, whether it be singing a topic-related song or individuals displaying a particular musical ability through performance. Our highly acclaimed EYFS / KS1 Nativity, and KS2 Productions are the highlight of the school year, with children joining together to showcase their musical talent in solo and group contexts.

We have developed a link with Tiffin Boys' School, hosting the Tiffin Boys Glee Club singers for their Christmas medley performance, and collaborating with them for the Crown Court Service held at All Saints Church, Kingston.

The Junior Choir annually sing carols at John Lewis, and on stage in the Ancient Market Place, as part of Kingston's Christmas Markets and festive season. They also perform as part of the Kingston Singing Festival, which is held at the Rose Theatre each year, joining with other schools across the borough to perform as a massed choir as well as performing an individual piece. Whilst there is a cost for parents to come and watch this performance, children who receive free school meals are entitled to a 50% discount.

We regularly promote further opportunities that are offered by Kingston Music Service in our weekly school newsletter. These may be family concerts held at the Rose Theatre, Kingston; children's holiday courses held at the Hook Centre, Chessington; or ensemble experiences that take place at the Kingston College Creative Industries Centre, the latter being free.

In the future

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

- Engage with our parent body to ensure our curriculum offer deepens and broadens the talents and interests of our context diversity.
- Increase opportunities to build cultural capital through capitalising on opportunities for children to experience and appreciate live performances.
- Develop opportunities for our young musicians to perform throughout the school year, to a variety of audiences.
- Introduce a wider range of instruments on offer for small group or individual lessons through KMS.
- Re-introduce a weekly ocarina ensemble for Y3, and look for additional ensemble opportunities for KS1.

Further information (optional)