

# Music development plan summary: Sandon Primary Academy

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2024
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rachel O'Donovan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Stoke City Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

In our school, music education is a vital component of the curriculum, designed to engage and inspire pupils at every stage of their development. Nursery pupils enjoy a 20-minute weekly lesson with our specialist music teacher, while Reception pupils have a 30-minute session. These formal lessons are complemented by additional musical activities with their class teachers throughout the week. In Key Stage 1 (KS1), pupils benefit from a 30-minute weekly music lesson and in Key Stage 2 (KS2), all pupils receive a 40-minute lesson, along with a bi-weekly singing assembly.

Our music curriculum introduces pupils to a diverse range of instruments, starting with untuned percussion in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). As they progress, KS1 students are introduced to tuned percussion instruments such as glockenspiels, and by Year 2 and 3, they begin learning the recorder. In Years 4 and 5, pupils are taught to play the ukulele, and singing remains a central element throughout all year groups.

Students are exposed to a variety of music genres including reggae, blues, funk, pop, rock, and ballads, as well as music from different historical periods. They learn to identify the eight key elements of music, count rhythms in various time signatures, and by the

end of KS2, they are proficient in reading and writing rhythms and simple staff notation. Pupils in Year 6 also have the opportunity to create their own compositions using music technology.

The music curriculum is developed by our specialist music teacher and aligns with both the national curriculum and the model music curriculum. During the most recent Ofsted inspection, music was selected for a deep dive and received a positive evaluation. For more detailed information about the music curriculum for each year group, please visit the curriculum section on our school website.

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

Beyond the core curriculum, our school offers a rich array of opportunities for pupils to engage with music through singing and playing instruments. We provide one-to-one instrumental tuition for children in care (CIC) funded by the City Music Service, including lessons on drums, piano, and guitar. Additionally, small group tuition on keyboards is available during lunchtimes for interested pupils.

Our after-school clubs offer a vibrant musical experience for Key Stage 2 (KS2) students. This year, many pupils participated in the Y3/4 Recorder Club, Y3/4 Choir, and Y6 Keyboard Club. Pupils can choose to join these clubs for a term or stay for the entire academic year, fostering significant progress and skill development.

Our purpose-built music room serves as both a space for curriculum lessons and a practice area for tuition lessons, lunchtime, and after-school clubs. Furthermore, pupils have access to a variety of free music groups organized by the City Music Service, providing additional avenues for musical growth and exploration.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

Our school is dedicated to providing a wide range of musical events and opportunities that enhance our pupils' musical experiences and foster a love for performance.

In Key Stage 2 (KS2), pupils participate in a 30-minute singing assembly every week, while Key Stage 1 (KS1) pupils enjoy a 20-minute singing assembly on alternate weeks.

In December 2023, all Year 5 and 6 pupils attended a pantomime performance of *Snow White* at the Mitchell Arts Theatre in Hanley, enriching their cultural experience. This experience also helped students prepare for their own pantomime performance during the summer term. Our Y3 and Y4 choir also had a busy December, performing at three key events: opening our school Winter Fair, singing at our local Tesco store to raise over £100 for the Dougie Mac Hospice, and giving a special performance at the hospice for staff and patients.

In January 2024, KS1 pupils watched a live-streamed concert themed around *Alice in Wonderland* by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Additionally, gifted and talented KS1 pupils visited the Regent Theatre in Hanley to see a Northern Ballet Company performance of *The Tortoise and the Hare*.

March 2024 saw our Y3 and Y4 recorder club participate in the recorder festival at Victoria Hall in Hanley, organized by the City Music Service. This event allowed them to perform alongside other local schools and enjoy performances by professional musicians. Later that month, 15 talented KS2 pupils travelled to the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester to see the Halle Orchestra, a trip that included a train journey from Stoke, offering a new experience for many.

## In the future

During the 2023-2024 academic year, we successfully completed the music audit from the music partnership and earned a silver-level “Excellence in Music” award. Our goal for the coming years is to achieve the gold level.

To reach this milestone, we will maintain and build upon our current performances and extracurricular activities. We aim to expand our one-to-one instrumental tuition, particularly for pupils eligible for pupil premium funding, to ensure more students benefit from personalized musical instruction.

Our curriculum remains adaptable to the needs and progress of our pupils, and we will continue to refine it with the guidance of our specialist music teacher. As we build a solid foundation in music education, we plan to gradually introduce more advanced composition techniques. Additionally, we have invested in a class set of flutes for Year 5 and 6. After assessing the readiness of our pupils last year, we will reintroduce this instrument when their skills with recorders and ukuleles are more established.

Beyond our existing trips and performance opportunities, we are committed to ensuring that every pupil has the chance to experience at least one live performance each year, enriching their musical education and exposure.