

Music Development Plan Summary:

Primary Academy 2025-2026

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	ASONE
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	CMST

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 Music Curriculum Intent

We want all children at St Mellion C of E Primary school to be able to experience, enjoy and have the opportunity to compose music. We believe an important part of this is performing - whether this be to peers, family members or wider audiences. We believe that providing children with these opportunities allows them to uncover their talents linking with our ‘Bring It’ vision.

Key skills developed: Our curriculum ensures all pupils develop skills in the four key areas of music education:

- Performing: Singing and playing instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- Composing: Creating and developing musical ideas within given structures

- Listening: Understanding and exploring how music is created, produced and communicated
- Appraising: Evaluating and analysing music using appropriate musical vocabulary
- Musical elements covered: Throughout their time at St Mellion, pupils explore and develop understanding of:
 - Pitch (high and low sounds)
 - Duration (rhythm and pulse)
 - Dynamics (loud and quiet)
 - Tempo (fast and slow)
 - Timbre (quality of sound)
 - Texture (layers of sound)
 - Structure (how music is organised)
 - Notation (reading and writing music)
- Genres and styles: We ensure pupils experience a diverse range of musical styles including:
 - Classical music from different periods
 - Traditional folk songs and music from the British Isles
 - World music from various cultures
 - Contemporary popular music
 - Sacred music, including hymns and worship songs relevant to our Christian ethos
 - Music from different historical periods linked to our topic work
 - Progression: Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure progression:

- Early years: Pupils are recognising basic rhythms, rhymes, pitch and tone.
- Years 1-2: Pupils explore their voices creatively, learn to sing simple songs from memory, play untuned percussion instruments, and begin to recognise basic musical elements
- Years 3-4: Pupils develop their singing technique, learn to play tuned instruments (including glockenspiels and recorders), compose simple melodies, and use musical vocabulary to describe music
- Years 5-6: Pupils sing in harmony, play more complex instrumental parts, compose and notate their own music, and critically evaluate performances using technical musical language

Skills and knowledge are revisited and built upon each year, with increasing complexity and independence expected as pupils progress through the school.

Built into our weekly music lessons, we create opportunities to write and perform for real purposes including have an exciting programme of concerts, shows and music assemblies. This will also maximise cultural capital for all our children, their overall wellbeing and confidence, while creating a supportive community of music making.

Time Allocation

Dedicated music teaching time: All pupils in Years 1-6 receive 1 hour of discrete music teaching per week, delivered by class teachers. This totals approximately 39 hours per academic year.

- Who teaches music: Music is primarily taught by class teachers who receive ongoing CPD and support from our music subject leader. We also work with our local music hub to access specialist teaching where appropriate.
- Additional music time: Beyond the dedicated music lesson, pupils experience music through:
 - Collective worship: 20 minutes per week where pupils sing hymns and songs that reflect our Christian values and the liturgical calendar
 - Whole-school singing: Regular opportunities for all pupils to sing together, fostering our school community
 - Church services: Termly services at our local church where pupils perform songs and hymns
 - Cross-curricular links: Music is integrated into topic work where appropriate (e.g., Tudor music in history, music from different cultures in geography)

Implementation

- How music is taught: Music is taught through weekly discrete lessons following the Charanga scheme of work. Each unit typically lasts 6 weeks and includes a balance of listening, performing, composing and appraising activities. Lessons are practical and interactive, with all pupils actively participating in musical activities.
- Given our small school size some music teaching takes place in mixed-age classes. We carefully plan to ensure all pupils access age-appropriate content while benefiting from collaborative learning opportunities. Older pupils often support younger pupils, developing their leadership skills and reinforcing their own learning.

Specific approaches and resources:

- We use Charanga Musical School as our core scheme, providing structured progression and high-quality resources
- All classrooms have access to a range of untuned and tuned percussion instruments
- We have a class set of glockenspiels and recorders for instrumental teaching
- Pupils use music technology including apps and software to compose and record their work
- We make strong links between our music curriculum and our Christian values, particularly through our collective worship programme
- We work closely with Cornwall Music Education Hub to access CPD, resources and specialist support

Inclusion: Our music curriculum is designed to be accessible to all pupils, including those with SEND. We use a range of strategies to ensure all pupils can participate fully:

- Visual supports and symbols to support understanding
- Adapted instruments where needed
- Differentiated activities to ensure appropriate challenge for all
- Opportunities for pupils to respond in different ways (performing, composing, listening)
- Small group work and peer support to build confidence

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.

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons

- **Current provision:** We currently work with Cornwall Music Education Hub to provide access to instrumental lessons. Pupils can express interest in learning instruments, and we facilitate connections with peripatetic teachers who visit the school or offer lessons through the hub.
- **Instruments available:** Through our partnership with Cornwall Music Education Hub, pupils can access lessons in:
 - Guitar
 - Keyboard/piano
 - Brass instruments
 - Woodwind instruments
 - Strings
- **Vocal lessons:** While we don't currently offer one-to-one vocal lessons, all pupils have opportunities to develop their singing through:
 - Whole-school singing assemblies
 - Our school choir (see below)
 - Collective worship
- **Access and affordability:** We are committed to ensuring that financial barriers don't prevent pupils from accessing instrumental lessons. We:
 - Work with Cornwall Music Education Hub to access subsidised lessons for pupils eligible for pupil premium
 - Provide instruments on loan where needed, so pupils don't need to purchase their own
 - Signpost families to financial support available through the hub
 - Consider using pupil premium funding to support music lessons for eligible pupils

Next steps:

- Increase awareness among families about the instrumental lesson opportunities available
- Explore block instrumental teaching (e.g., whole-class ukulele) as a cost-effective way to give all pupils instrumental experience
- Develop a system for tracking which pupils are accessing instrumental lessons to ensure equity

Ensembles, Choirs and Musical Groups

- School Choir: We run a weekly school choir open to all pupils from Years 2-6. The choir:
 - Meets every Monday after school for 60 minutes
 - Is led by Miss Gemma Harris
 - Performs regularly at school events, church services, and in the local community
 - Provides opportunities for pupils to sing in harmony and develop their vocal technique
 - Builds confidence and develops teamwork skills
- Whole-School Singing: Every Thursday, we bring the whole school together for singing practice. This:
 - Develops our school community and sense of belonging
 - Allows all pupils to experience singing together regardless of age
 - Prepares pupils for performances and church services
 - Introduces new songs and hymns in a supportive environment

Next steps:

- Explore opportunities to form a small instrumental ensemble (e.g., recorder group, ukulele group)
- Consider joining Cornwall Music Education Hub's area choir or ensemble opportunities
- Develop links with other small schools to create joint musical groups

Access to Instruments and Equipment

School instruments: We maintain a range of instruments that pupils can access during co-curricular time:

- Untuned percussion instruments (tambourines, shakers, drums, etc.)
- Tuned percussion (glockenspiels, chime bars)
- Keyboards (2 available)
- Ukuleles (exploring purchase of a class set)

Instrument loans: Through Cornwall Music Education Hub, we can arrange for pupils to borrow instruments to practice at home, including:

- Brass instruments
- Woodwind instruments
- String instruments
- Guitars

Technology and equipment: Pupils have access to:

- iPads with music creation apps (e.g., GarageBand)
- Keyboards with headphones for individual practice
- Recording equipment to capture performances

Practice space: We provide:

- The school hall for choir rehearsals and larger group practice
- Quiet spaces during lunchtime for individual or small group practice
- Access to instruments during break and lunch times (supervised)

Next steps:

- Audit our current instrument stock and identify any gaps
- Develop a clear system for pupils to book practice space and instruments
- Explore funding opportunities to expand our instrument collection

Performance Opportunities

We believe that performing is a crucial part of musical development, building confidence and giving purpose to practice and learning.

Regular performance opportunities include:

Termly concerts:

- Christmas concert (December) - all pupils perform for families and the community
- Spring concert (March) - showcasing learning from the spring term
- Summer concert (July) - end-of-year celebration featuring all year groups

Church services:

- Harvest Festival service at St Mellion Church
- Christmas carol service
- Easter service
- End-of-year leavers' service for Year 6

Weekly opportunities:

- Sharing assemblies where pupils can perform for their peers
- Collective worship where pupils lead singing or perform
- Informal lunchtime performances

Community events:

- Performing at local care homes
- Participating in village events and fêtes (Cherry Feast)

- Contributing to community celebrations

Next steps:

- Establish links with more community venues for performance opportunities
- Explore virtual performance opportunities to share our music more widely
- Create a termly performance calendar so families can plan ahead

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.

Our Commitment to Diverse Musical Experiences

At St Mellion, we are committed to providing all pupils with a rich and diverse range of musical experiences that broaden their horizons, develop their cultural capital, and inspire a lifelong love of music. We recognise that many of our pupils come from a rural community and may have limited access to musical experiences outside of school, so we work hard to ensure that school provides these opportunities.

Experiencing Live Music

Our approach: We ensure that every pupil experiences live music regularly through a combination of:

- Attending professional concerts and performances
- Welcoming visiting musicians into school
- Participating in community musical events
- Accessing virtual concerts and performances

- School trip to Theatre Royal Plymouth for a professional concert or musical theatre performance
- Visiting musician assembly performance
- Easter service with live music

Making it accessible:

- We subsidise all trips and performances to ensure cost is not a barrier
- We use pupil premium funding to fully fund experiences for eligible pupils
- We seek free or low-cost opportunities through Cornwall Music Education Hub
- We bring performances into school where travel is a barrier

Next steps:

- Develop a rolling programme of visiting musicians to ensure variety
- Build partnerships with local musicians and music organisations
- Explore virtual concert opportunities to supplement in-person experiences
- Create a 'musical experiences passport' for pupils to track their experiences

Opportunities to Perform and Share Music

We believe that performing music is as important as listening to it. All pupils have regular opportunities to share their musical learning and perform for different audiences.

Performance opportunities include:

For all pupils:

- Three termly concerts (Christmas, Spring, Summer) where every pupil performs
- Weekly sharing assemblies where classes showcase their music learning
- Collective worship where pupils lead singing
- Church services throughout the year
- Class assemblies for parents

For choir members:

- Termly concerts
- Church services (Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Leavers)
- Community events (care home visits, village fête, community celebrations)
- Potential participation in Cornwall Music Education Hub choir events

For instrumental learners:

- Informal lunchtime concerts for peers
- Opportunities to perform in assemblies and concerts
- Encouragement to share their learning with their class
- Support to participate in external festivals and competitions

For small groups and ensembles:

- Performance slots in school concerts
- Opportunities to perform at community events
- Informal performances for other classes

Building confidence: We support pupils to build performance confidence by:

- Starting with small, supportive audiences (their own class)
- Gradually building to larger audiences (whole school, parents, community)
- Celebrating all performances, regardless of level
- Providing positive feedback and encouragement
- Allowing pupils to perform in groups before solo performances
- Creating a culture where mistakes are seen as part of learning

Next steps:

- Increase opportunities for informal performances
- Develop links with more community venues
- Create more opportunities for pupils to perform in small groups
- Record performances to share with the wider community (e.g., on school social media)

Links with the Local Community

As a small Church of England primary school, we have strong links with our local community, and music plays an important role in these relationships.

Our church partnership:

- Regular services at St Mellion Church featuring pupil performances
- Collaboration with the church choir and organist
- Opportunities for pupils to experience organ music and church music traditions
- Participation in community worship through music

Community performances:

- Annual visit to Chyvarhas Residential and Nursing Home in Callington to perform for residents
- Performances at village events and celebrations
- Participation in community festivals
- Sharing our termly concerts with the wider community

Local partnerships:

- Links with St Barnabas Trust for joint musical events
- Collaboration with local music groups or organisations
- Welcoming local musicians to perform and work with pupils

Next steps:

- Strengthen links with local secondary schools for musical transition
- Develop partnerships with local music groups
- Increase community performance opportunities
- Explore intergenerational music projects

Partnership with Cornwall Music Education Hub

We work closely with Cornwall Music Education Hub to enhance our musical experiences and provision.

Current partnership activities:

- Access to subsidised instrumental lessons
- Instrument loan scheme for pupils

- CPD and training for staff
- Access to area concerts and festivals
- Support with music development planning
- Resources and guidance

How we use hub support:

- Signposting families to instrumental lesson opportunities
- Accessing financial support for disadvantaged pupils
- Participating in hub-led events and performances
- Accessing specialist teaching and workshops
- Borrowing instruments and equipment

Next steps:

- Explore additional hub opportunities (e.g., area choir, ensemble groups)
- Increase staff engagement with hub CPD
- Develop our music progression strategy in partnership with the hub
- Access hub support for our music development plan review

Monitoring Impact

We monitor the impact of our musical experiences by:

- Tracking pupil participation in performances and events
- Gathering pupil voice feedback about musical experiences
- Observing pupils' confidence and enthusiasm for music
- Monitoring progression in musical skills and knowledge
- Celebrating achievements and milestones

Success measures:

- 100% of pupils experience live music at least once per year
- 100% of pupils perform for an audience at least termly
- Increasing numbers of pupils choosing to learn instruments
- High levels of pupil engagement and enjoyment in music
- Pupils able to talk confidently about diverse musical styles and cultures

Further information

Parents are kept updated through newsletters and emails.

They are also invited to performances and are sent video clips of their children's musical work from time to time.

Children who have instrumental lessons in school with teachers from CMST receive an annual report documenting their achievements and setting out their next steps.

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. [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people)