



St John's C of E Primary School Music Development Plan Summary

St John's C of E Primary School - Music Provision Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-6
Date this summary was published	01/09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/09/2026
Name of the school music lead	Lindsay Churchill
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Bristol Beacon

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 at St John's Primary School.

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music.

- St John's holds Artsmark Gold award
- We are a Music Mark School (nominated by our hub, Bristol Beacon)
- Music is a strength of St John's Primary School and we particularly enjoy and are proud of our whole school singing. Children in KS1 and KS2 take part in a dedicated 30 minute Singing Assembly once a week. This is led by a Music specialist (Voice) and includes additional planned opportunities for listening to music from a wide range of countries, cultures, beliefs and time periods (closely linked to MMC). During this time, discussion of this music is also undertaken to develop and consolidate children's understanding of vocabulary associated with the seven Interrelated Dimensions of Music (pitch, tempo, structure, dynamics, duration, timbre).

- **EYFS:** Children take part in a weekly 30 minute Music lesson provided by a Music specialist.

Year 1 and 2: Children take part in 16 hour long specialist-led lessons throughout the year, in addition to Singing Assemblies.

Year 3 and 4: Children take part in 32 hour long lessons throughout the year, in addition to Singing Assemblies. These are led by a Music specialist and an additional teacher.

Year 5 and 6: Children take part in 20 hour long specialist-led lessons throughout the year, in addition to Singing Assemblies

- .At St John's Primary, we follow the **Bristol Music Curriculum** with additional units and resources accessed through our **Sing Up** membership, as well as experiences such as, *ENO: Finish This!* and *Berlioz: Fantastique!* We are currently reviewing several of our units to ensure best delivery of our skills and learning and will be making some changes over the next couple of months.

We refer closely to the **Model Music Curriculum** when planning listening activities and selecting singing repertoire for our pupils in order to develop stage appropriate and progressive skills. Music lessons are skills based and aim to encourage and develop a passion for music in children of all abilities. Our curriculum aims to allow children to discover and understand more about music and musicians so that they can appreciate and develop a life-long love of music.

We invite professional musicians to work with our children during Music Week to enrich our musical offering to all children.

- **Instrumental Skills:** Pupils are currently given the opportunity to learn ukulele skills in whole-class lessons in years 3 and 4 and keyboard skills in years 5 and 6.
- **One to One and Small Group Instrumental Tuition:** Pupils are encouraged to take up an instrument with one of our Bristol Beacon tutors or our private piano teachers, outside their class lessons. We currently offer lessons on the piano, violin, flute, clarinet, guitar, ukulele.
- **Vision:** We aim for children to see themselves as musicians from the start of school. From EYFS, children begin to explore and understand the interrelated dimensions of music through listening and practical music making, with a strong focus on singing. A Music specialist delivers Music Assemblies and lessons to all year groups across the school allowing for consistency, focussed progression and loops of learning (revisiting / reminding of previous learning). Children are taught formal notation. Alongside graphic scoring, from year 1 and the language of the Interrelated Dimensions of Music underpins all listening, performance and

composition activities and is developed, revisited and expanded upon as the children move through the school.

- **Opportunities:** Children have frequently attended concert venues, such as Bristol Beacon, St George's, Bristol Cathedral, The Trinity Space etc to perform and listen to live music. Our Worrall Road Choir (60 KS2 pupils) performs at Young Voices in Birmingham Arena each January where they are given the opportunity to work with professional singers, conductors, instrumentalists and choreographers Y2 perform in the Spiegeltent each December, Y1 visit The Lantern Hall in Bristol Beacon each summer and the KS2 Choir learns a challenging repertoire of 2-part songs to perform with 600 other Bristol school children and a professional band on the Main stage at Bristol Beacon twice a year.

We offer our children a broad balance of performance, listening and composition opportunities through which they can get to know, understand and celebrate music from different traditions, cultures, countries and times.

Whole school events have music at their heart! We use music to celebrate, to reflect and to mark different events in our calendar. Music is an important part of our collective worship and brings us together. We have a close relationship with our Music Hub, Bristol Beacon who provide us with stimulating musical experiences in the classroom as well as extra-curricular provision.

We have close links with All Saints Church in Clifton, where we sing and perform at key points in the year, and also with Redland United Reform Church and their Korean church and musicians.

Part B: Extra Curricular Music at St John's Primary School

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time.

KS2 choir runs throughout the year and sings on the main stage at Bristol Beacon several times a year as well as attending Birmingham Arena for the Young Voices concert in January each year.

Pupils are invited to learn piano, violin, ukulele, guitar, flute, clarinet or a brass instrument with one of our peripatetic teachers and instrumental loans can be organised through the hub. Families who qualify for Pupil Premium funding are invited to take part in one activity for free (i.e. one sporting or musical activity).

Our ukulele teacher and our piano teacher organise regular pupil concerts and assembly performances to share and celebrate progress and all pupils are invited to

perform in our annual music concert. We also encourage children to perform as their peers enter and leave certain weekly assemblies. Additional weekend and evening ensemble opportunities provided by Bristol Beacon are also available for children to attend.

Part C: Musical experiences at St John's Primary School

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise.

All children participate in a weekly Singing Assembly lasting for 30 minutes. Each site has its own Singing Assembly, meaning that repertoire may be planned appropriately for the age and ability of the children taking part. Overlapping repertoire is carefully planned so that when we celebrate or meet as a whole school, pupils are able to share the experience of singing as a large ensemble.

Regular music focussed events in the St John's calendar:

EYFS: Nativity and termly music performance / sharing for parents

Y1 Nativity; Bristol Beacon Summer Sing

Y2 Spiegeltent Bristol Schools Christmas Sing;

Y3/Y4 Nativity at All Saints' Church; Ukulele sharing performances

Y5 NW24 Singing Event (2026)

Y6 School Play; Cenotaph performance

KS2 Choir: Young Voices; Bristol Beacon : Big Summer Sing, Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Music Week Concert

Instrumentalists: Bristol Beacon Orchestral Workshop, Music Week Concert

Performances by visiting musicians for Music Week

Each class prepares a performance piece for whole-school Harvest, Christmas Sing-a-long, Christingle and End of year assembly.

In the future at St John's Primary School

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

Action Plan:

- Develop additional performance opportunities ; Y5/6 Samba sharing, Y5 NW24 event
- Continue to increase numbers taking instrumental lessons

- Encourage children to participate in Beacon ensembles outside of school

Further information

Bristol Beacon, our Music Hub, offers opportunities for out of school ensembles and choirs. More information can be found here

<https://bristolbeacon.org/join-an-ensemble/>

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.