

Music development plan summary: Mrs Ethelston's Primary School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025- 2026
Date this summary was published	1/9/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Katy Allington
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Devon
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

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 at Mrs Ethelston's is based on the National Curriculum requirements and uses Charanga to support our teaching and learning from Foundation stage to Year 6. Our curriculum is designed in a spiral so the children have the opportunity to continually revisit skills and knowledge to build on these elements across the primary years. Music lessons are held weekly for at least 45 minutes and there is a dedicated 30 minute music Worship weekly which covers listening, appraising and performance, covering musical vocabulary and key musical skills appropriate for the different year groups. The children sing daily as a collective on the playground before attending Church. Lessons are structured through a school aligned pedagogy: appraisal across a range of musical genres and time periods, recall and retrieval, introduction to vocabulary, taught musical skill input, practice session and then compose / improvise / play / sing and perform and appraise to evaluate one's own performance. In Years 1 and 2 our teaching of instruments is glockenspiels, in Years 3 and 4 we use recorders and in Years 5 and 6 we continue this musical instrument learning through the ensemble of ukuleles. This exposes the children to a variety of types of instruments whilst also giving them a longer period of time to master the skills required to play an instrument successfully. We work with Devon Music Hub with our delivery of Charanga. In addition to this as a Lead School for music, we work closely with other providers to enhance of musical offer, such as the Future Musicians Programme.

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.

We have a large school choir (Foundation stage - Year 6) that rehearses weekly and perform in a variety of places throughout the academic year- nursing homes, school fairs, community events and Worship.

We offer a wide range of peripatetic lessons and information can be found on our website. We are able to offer, piano, cello, clarinet, flute, violin and guitar. We have limited areas of school that can be used for music lessons but we are able to use the local church to offer this enrichment.

We provide information for parents about local musical organisations and other musical activities through our weekly newsletter, website and social media platforms.

Music is also used as a whole school reward where the children work collaboratively to earn enough points to request songs on a Friday lunchtime.

Some music lessons are delivered to ensemble groups and all these children, and any child that learns an instrument has the opportunity to perform in our annual Spring Concert.

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.

We regularly sing in Worships and when attending church and have opportunities for classes to perform their half termly learning which includes a song as part of their class Worship.

We have a termly musical for partner year groups. Foundation and Year 1 and 2 perform the Nativity in the Autumn term. Year 3 and 4 perform a Spring musical and Year 5 and 6 a summer musical. In addition to this we also host Carols by Candlelight, Carols around the Christmas tree, Easter Celebration and Spring Concert. All these events are annual.

We make use of local music groups, peripatetic teachers and the Church choir to come and share their musical talents with the school. We are supported by a music teacher from the community who also volunteers and supports the school with the Easter celebration. This involved an adult choir and musicians (made up of members of the community and parents) performing with the whole school.

The PTFA support the school financially to offer the children an opportunity to watch live theatre performances every year.

In the future

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

We aim to now sustain the musical ensemble playing across the year groups and this will be taught by the music lead.

Enhance community involvement by participating in the Future Musician Project alongside other primary schools and Axe Valley Academy.

We now have a Trust off which aims to provide opportunities for our school to musically perform with our other schools within our new Trust.

Further information (optional)

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.

Devon [music hub](#) provides information about music in the local area.