

Music development plan summary: Sandford Hill Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Smith/Chloe Lockett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	City Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	City Learning Trust

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-curricular music and musical events – 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.

Curriculum music

Weekly curriculum music lessons are taught from Reception – Year 6 by the City Music Service in close liaison with the school's music leader. Our progressive curriculum meets the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) and is divided into five strands: Play/perform, Sing, Compose, Listen and Musicianship. The duration of class lessons is 30 minutes. In assemblies, the pupils have additional opportunities to sing and listen to a wide range of music, linked to the MMC led by the Music Leader.

Whole class instrumental teaching begins in Year 1 and Year 2 where the pupils are taught to follow notation and rhythm on the glockenspiels. Instrumental teaching continues in Year 3 and 4 where the pupils are taught to read standard notation and play the recorder which progresses to a brass instrument in Year 5 and 6.

We have a close relationship with the City Music Service and take opportunities offered by the service to support our music curriculum and enable our pupils to further develop their musicianship skills through playing/performing and listening to live music.

In addition, we also collaborate with the City Learning Trust with the 'Musical Pathways Programme'. The music leader identifies areas of the programme to support and enhance our music curriculum across the school.

The school's music leader works closely alongside the City Music Service to regularly monitor and evaluate the music curriculum.

Extra-curricular music

At Sandford Hill Primary School we offer a weekly extra-curricular choir club (45 minutes). This club is offered to Key Stage 2 pupils and extends to Year 2 pupils in the summer term. The club is led by our music leader.

The weekly school choir supplements and enhances the wider, communal singing in school and provides an opportunity for pupils who love singing to further develop their singing and ensemble skills. Our choir supports many events in the local community such as singing at: The Royal Stoke University Hospital, The Douglas Macmillan Light up a Life service, Community carol singing and Sandford Hill School Fayres. Our choir also takes great pride in taking part in the annual Young Voices Concert in Birmingham.

Pupils from Year 1 – Year 6 also have the opportunity to attend a 'Musical Theatre' club after school. The club develops pupils' singing, dancing, acting and performing skills.

To support our whole class brass instrumental teaching, pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 are invited to attend 'Blast Off', an evening youth wind band led by the City Music Service.

Musical events

All pupils take part in class assemblies presented to parents and other pupils. In addition to this, all pupils perform in a Christmas assembly. All assemblies incorporate elements of musicianship (singing and instrumental).

As part of our collaboration with the City Learning Trust, Reception pupils have story time sessions responding to music with musicians from the Halle orchestra and Year 3 pupils take part in the 'Meet the Musician' project. This enables them to meet a brass instrumentalist (in school) and subsequently watch the instrumentalist perform in a concert with the Halle orchestra.

Year 4 pupils take part in the annual city-wide Recorder Festival and Year 5 pupils take part in the Whole Class Ensemble Teaching celebration, both events are led by the City Music Service.

Year 6 pupils take part in an end-of-year assembly which incorporates and celebrates their musical skills.

To celebrate the value that we place on music in our school, the City Music Service has invited us to become a Music Mark School. Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education, championing and supporting access to music for all children and young people.

In the future

Working alongside colleagues from the City Music Service, a Music Audit has been completed. Targets for development are as follows:

- 1: Assessment – To formalise assessment to inform teaching and learning.
- 2: To continue to teach vocabulary in line with our school progression plan
- 3: To look at opportunities for pupils to engage further with instrumental learning (brass workshop)

Further information (optional)

City Music Service - <https://stokecms.org.uk/>

City Learning Trust - <https://citylearningtrust.org/character-arts-foundation/performing-expressive-arts/>