

Music development plan summary: St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

June 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:

- 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 yearly 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	2025/26
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed//	
Name of the school music lead	Ruth Congdon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Maguire
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service

Music is a universal language. It is a unique form of expression which enables us to be creative, to develop communication skills and teamwork. Playing musical instruments and singing are physical activities which help develop coordination. Music can also benefit the emotional wellbeing and social development of our children. At St Teresa's, we provide a variety of musical experiences and aim to inspire our children, instilling in them a lifelong love of music, and to give them the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to develop as musicians in the primary school and beyond.

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.

From September 2024, St Teresa's will follow the original Charanga curriculum in all classes except year 4. This scheme allows all teachers to teach comprehensive and carefully sequenced music lessons, ensuring that all children progress and build upon their music skills throughout each year group. Music lessons are taught once a week for at least one hour and are planned and taught as carefully and robustly as any other foundation subject.

Year 4 will be having one year of instrumental teaching on orchestral instrument (trumpets) with a specialist tutor provided by Essex Music Services.

Our Music Progression Skills Map details our student's progression of musical knowledge and skills from Years 1 – 6.

SEND

A high-quality music education is a right for all children and we consider every child's individual needs without compromising on quality provision. Through the use of the Charanga digital platform, music lessons are inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for all. This platform also offers a SEND section that provides extra support through the Any-one Can Play scheme for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Teachers can access these resources alongside their curriculum planning to find appropriate resources and activities to suit all specific needs.

Each music lesson offers a range of activities and musical experiences that start with interactive games, singing and vocal warm-ups, playing instrumental parts in a song, introducing and learning notation, improvisation and composing activities and an opportunity to perform and share. We have a class set of glockenspiels and a range of untuned percussion instruments which are used in every lesson.

Teachers assess children's progress through a unit of work to track if children are working at the Expected Standard, Greater Depth or if they require extra support with their music education.

Specific vocabulary is displayed to support learning of musical knowledge and skills throughout each lesson.

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.

At St Teresa's, pupils are able to access instrumental tuition during the school day through Essex Music Services. We currently offer lessons in guitar, piano, violin, viola, cello and double bass. If children do not have their own instrument, they can be hired through Essex Music Services.

Essex Music Service offers financial assistance for Instrument Hire and Instrumental Tuition for pupils learning with the Music Service who are from low income families, in receipt of Free School Meals or for Looked After Children. There is also financial assistance available to support the joining of various ensembles led by the Music Service. More detailed information is available on the Essex Music Services website.

We run a whole school at the moment – one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage 2. Children are encouraged to sign up at the beginning of each term.

In addition, choirs get to perform in a variety of outside of school events during the year including a Christmas show at the local secondary.

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.

At St Teresa's, there are many opportunities for our pupils to perform.

Children in the school choir put on an annual concert to celebrate the learning that has taken place over the year. Other choir performances include: singing at a local nursing home, joining Lexden choral choir to perform a carol concert at our local church and combining with the other Catholic schools in the diocese to perform a musical nativity play and sing carols.

Once a year, we hold a concert celebrating all the music that takes place in the school. All children who learn an instrument at school or privately are invited to perform as soloists or in small groups. The other musical ensembles in the school (orchestra, recorder group and choirs) also perform.

As a Catholic school, we regularly attend mass as a school. The choir leads the singing and, from time to time, gifted and talented children are invited to perform during the communion reflection.

One receives instruction from a specialist music teacher and over the year learn to play a stringed instrument as part of an orchestra.

We also provide opportunities for pupils to listen to live music. Our older children were invited to attend the dress rehearsal of St Benedict's musical production, "Joseph" at Easter and our Year 6 students attend a West End production each year to celebrate the end of SATS and to help them prepare for their own musical production which takes place at the end of the school year. All children in the school attended the Christmas pantomime at the Mercury Theatre.

With the exception of the West End show and the pantomime, all performances were free for our pupils.

We also provide opportunities for pupils to join part of a band (irock). Here, parents can sign their children up to play the keyboard, drums, guitar or sing. There is a fee for this and children enjoy performing in their bands in front of the school at the end of each term.

In the future

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

- We aim to maintain our strong music offer.
- We aim to further develop our liturgical singing and links within the parish, for example giving pupils the opportunity to play their instrument during weekdays masses.

Further information (optional)

- Essex Music Service have produced a [Parent's Guide to Music Provision](#) which gives parents valuable information about supporting their child's music education.
- Essex Music Service Schools Brochure 2024-25

- Greater Essex Music Hub Local Plan for Music Education – Information for schools will be coming in September 2024