

Music development plan summary: St Michael's Easthampstead CE VA Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Chris Crowther
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Shaun Riordan
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Berkshire Music Trust; Kapow; Charanga

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.

- 1-hour weekly lessons are delivered following the National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 & 2.
- We currently use a scheme of work called Charanga, which offers opportunities for all the strands of music curriculum to be covered in every year group. After consultation and research, we will be migrating to the Kapow scheme of work for music gradually during the 2026-27 academic year.
- This scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally.
- One year group participate annually in a project where they have an introduction to an instrument through Berkshire Music Trust.
- Lessons include the use of instruments, body percussion and vocals to accompany music and create original pieces.

- Children are introduced to the 7 elements of music.
- There is a performance to the school and parent at the end of their 10 weeks of learning.
- Our school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), and non-statutory guidance for teaching music for Key Stages 1 to 2.

Part B: Co-curricular and extra-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.

- Children participate in daily and weekly singing practice as a whole school during worship, focusing on learning and refining music to play at assemblies and church services.
- Year 4, for Autumn term, have the opportunity as a whole class to learn to play musical instruments and sing, via our link with Berkshire Music Trust for the 'Rock Out' taught project, culminating in a performance to parents.
- Children can participate in individual and group lessons delivered weekly by Rocksteady. They learn guitar, drums, keyboards, vocals.
- In line with our school club's policy, disadvantaged children can access this for free.
- A concert by Rocksteady to the school and parents is offered each term.
- A KS2 choir meets weekly to learn and rehearse a variety of songs. This is in preparation for performances both internally and externally.
- Participation in the choir is offered for free and is inclusive and aligned to our SEND and PPG priorities.
- Berkshire Music Trust offer individual and subsidised music lessons on a variety of instruments and demonstrate through regular assemblies.
- The choir have participated in ensemble performances such as Young Voices at the O2 and the Junior Music Festival organised by Berkshire Music Trust, and we link in with other local schools for these events.
- Opportunities to link music to other subjects are used to enhance children's experiences of music. As part of the school's 150th anniversary each class learned and performed a song from a defined historic period.
- Christmas and Easter performances including singing in Church.

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.

- School choir will be involved in choral projects including the Junior Music Festival, performing at our annual Mother's Day tea and at the school and church fair.
- The school choir, along with the whole of KS2, will be performing an annual Christmas singing showcase, which took place for the first time in December 2025. This sits outside of the usual nativity performances.
- The whole school will have opportunities to sing in Church regularly, led by the school choir.
- KS2 children are invited to watch performances by local secondary school orchestras and bands across the year.

In the future

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

- To introduce different musical styles and from different cultures to children through the lunch time service.
- Ensure regular opportunities for children to perform to each other at the end of a unit of learning.
- Migrate across to, and embed, the Kapow Music curriculum to ensure consistency and progression across all year groups.

Further information

Our Vision

At St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School, we believe music has the power to inspire, unite and enable every child to flourish. Guided by our Christian vision to "Go above and beyond with love", we aim to provide an ambitious, inclusive and joyful music education that nurtures creativity, confidence and self-expression.

Music is an important part of school life. Through singing, listening, performing, composing and appreciating music from a wide range of cultures and traditions, pupils develop resilience, teamwork, discipline and an appreciation of the diverse world in which they live.

Our music curriculum reflects our core values of Honesty, Kindness, Aspiration and Respect, helping pupils to develop both musically and personally.

Curriculum Music

Music is taught from Reception to Year 6 using the Kapow Primary Music scheme, which is fully aligned with the National Curriculum.

The curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils progressively develop:

- Musical knowledge and vocabulary.
- Singing technique and confidence.
- Instrumental performance skills.
- Composition and improvisation.
- Reading and understanding simple musical notation.
- Critical listening and musical appreciation.

Pupils study music from a broad range of genres, traditions, cultures and historical periods, enabling them to appreciate the richness and diversity of music across the world.

Teachers assess learning throughout lessons to ensure pupils build securely on prior knowledge and make strong progress over time.

Instrumental Music

All pupils experience practical music-making as part of the curriculum using tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

The school also seeks opportunities to extend instrumental learning through external providers and music partnerships where available. Information about additional tuition is shared with families and every effort is made to ensure opportunities are accessible to all pupils.

Singing

Singing is central to musical life at St Michael's.

Pupils sing regularly through:

- Daily and weekly collective worship.
- Classroom music lessons.
- Church services.
- Seasonal celebrations.
- Performances for parents and the wider community.

We believe that singing together builds confidence, community and wellbeing whilst strengthening pupils' musical understanding.

Instrumental Music

All pupils experience practical music-making as part of the curriculum using tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

The school also seeks opportunities to extend instrumental learning through external providers and music partnerships where available. Information about additional tuition is shared with families and every effort is made to ensure opportunities are accessible to all pupils.

Musical Performance Opportunities

Every child has opportunities to perform throughout their time at St Michael's.

These include:

- Christmas performances.
- Easter and other church services.
- Year group productions.
- Collective worship.
- Choir performances.
- Celebration events throughout the school year.

Performance opportunities are planned to build confidence progressively and celebrate every child's achievement.

Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring that every pupil can access and enjoy music.

Adaptive teaching strategies, carefully selected resources and appropriate adult support enable pupils with SEND to participate fully in all aspects of music-making.

We also strive to remove barriers to participation for disadvantaged pupils so that all children can benefit from enrichment opportunities.

Leadership

Music is led by the Music Subject Leader, supported by senior leaders, and a HLTA with experience in singing and music teaching.

Quality is monitored through:

- Lesson visits.
- Curriculum monitoring.
- Pupil voice.
- Staff support and professional development.
- Review of curriculum progression and outcomes.

Leaders regularly evaluate music provision to ensure pupils receive a high-quality education which reflects current national expectations.

Partnership Working

The school values partnerships that enrich pupils' musical experiences.

Where possible we work with:

- Local churches.
- External music providers.
- Local schools.
- Berkshire Music Trust.
- Visiting musicians and performers.

These partnerships broaden pupils' experiences beyond the classroom and encourage lifelong engagement with music.