

Music development plan summary: Senacre Wood 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	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Joanne Cripps
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Kent Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

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 Senacre Wood Primary School, the children experience full coverage of the National Music Curriculum and Foundation Stage Framework through specialist teaching in their music lessons. Our curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (DFE 2021) and Development Matters for EYFS and it is the basis for our musical content to fulfil the expected requirements and to ensure progression of key skills and a variety of musical experiences.

Each year group has a minimum of one hour weekly music lessons planned and delivered to all year groups by a music specialist to promote an environment that allows children to be subjective, take risks and explore their own creative talents and ideas. All year groups are given great opportunities to sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate in their music lessons as well as develop a widening repertoire of music. Through our music lessons, we aim to further the pupils' creativity and develop personal attributes and our school values such as: curiosity, independence, innovation, reflection, resilience and collaboration.

We use a range of resources and ideas to inform planning, following the key skills and progression outlined in the Model Music Curriculum and Early Years Development Matters. Our music curriculum can be divided into two strands of knowledge; substantive and disciplinary. The skills learnt in each of these areas then develop and build at each stage, allowing our pupils to become well-rounded and creative musicians: as performers, composers and listeners of music. The strands are embedded into the music curriculum through their weekly music lessons and activities as well as weekly singing assemblies, various performances, extracurricular activities, enrichment opportunities and the learning of instruments.

We teach the substantive knowledge of music based on the nine interrelated dimensions of music: Pulse, Rhythm, Pitch, Tempo, Dynamics, Timbre, Texture, Structure and Notation. Substantive knowledge focuses on developing children's skills and knowledge required for them to develop as musicians. It is achieved through deliberate planning and practice, allowing the children to develop and demonstrate fluency of knowledge. It also involves learning about music across a range of historical

periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians. Disciplinary knowledge in music is the interpretation on the interrelated dimensions of music and how this knowledge is used when singing, playing instruments, improvising and composing, to develop creative and original pieces and performances. Children work independently and collaboratively at Senacre Wood to interpret and combine the dimensions of music to create a specific and desired effects.

Singing and playing of instruments is a key focus for each year group to help develop musicianship skills, experiment with producing different sounds and build their confidence when composing and performing in a supportive environment. Music theory plays an important part in every music lesson at Senacre Wood Primary School and children are encouraged to use the language of music to discuss, appreciate and analyse music within discussion and written form. We endeavour to ensure that children have the opportunity to learn a range of musical instruments with a focus in KS2 on learning to play the ocarina, recorder and keyboard. Year 6 children are also taught music technology ready for their transition to secondary school and the KS3 curriculum. Our pupils' achievements in music are recognised and celebrated in their lessons and celebration assemblies. These awards help to motivate pupils to strive for excellence in their musical endeavours.

Successful inclusive provision at Senacre Wood Primary School is seen as the responsibility of the whole school community, permeating all aspects of school life and applicable to all our pupils. Each lesson is scaffolded to support all levels of learners and pitched to an ambitious standard that ensures it is accessible to all learners, including those children with SEND. Pupils' individual needs are considered and adaptations are planned where necessary to ensure the success of all pupils. Inclusive practice in music should enable all children to achieve their best possible standard; whatever their ability, and irrespective of gender, ethnic, social or cultural background, faith, disability or any other aspect that could affect their participation in, or progress in their learning. A mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of music. High achievers in music will be given the opportunity to work with the Music Subject Leader to participate in extracurricular activities and prepare more challenging pieces for performances.

In summary, our Music curriculum is designed to provide a robust and comprehensive music education that nurtures the musical talents and interests of our pupils. By providing a progressive curriculum and rich musical environment, we aim to develop well-rounded musicians who appreciate and engage with music on a deep and meaningful level.

Part B: 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.

At Senacre Wood Primary School, pupils have the opportunity to take part in many musical activities beyond the curriculum, including music clubs, choirs and band lessons with our peripatetic Rocksteady music teacher. We provide a rich musical environment in which we encourage and value creativity. The atmosphere is purposeful, and children feel safe to express their creative ideas and thoughts. Children have access to various resources and instruments to support their understanding of new concepts along with tangible resources that act as inspiration to initiate discussion and compositions.

After school weekly, KS2 children have the option to join our choir club where they listen to a wide-range of different repertoire and learn new songs in an engaging and supportive environment. Pupils prepare songs for Harvest and Christmas church services as well as their upcoming trip to the Young Voices concert at the O2. After Christmas, choir continues as a lunchtime club and we rehearse for Spring and Summer performances to parents, concentrating on more technical challenging pieces with harmony and opportunities for soloists to perform.

Music lunchtime clubs are provided throughout the year to concentrate on more able and talented musicians working towards a small group performance on particular instruments such as the ukulele, keyboard or recorder.

Pupils in KS2 are invited to join an after school music club with a music specialist which engages the children in fun and inclusive, group music-making activities. Our club encourages collaborative music-making for mixed instruments and abilities with many opportunities to compose, improvise and perform in a supportive environment. Music club enhances equity, diversity and inclusion, embracing a wider range of instruments, styles and players with pupils own preferences for music shared and encouraged.

Rocksteady is the UK's leading provider of rock and pop lessons for primary school children and we're proud that their fun, inclusive band lessons take place at our school every Friday morning. As well as teaching new musical skills through contemporary rock and pop songs, Rocksteady has a proven significant, positive impact on wellbeing, confidence and life skills. Recently they were awarded 'Schools Wellbeing Resource of

the Year' at the Education Today awards, for their work inspiring children through music.

Rocksteady lessons are open for children from EYFS to Year 6 and they can choose to play either vocals, electric guitar, drums, bass, or keyboards in their very own band. All instruments are provided, and no previous experience is necessary. Children progress through a 300-skill curriculum learning band, performance and instrument skills and work towards the official Rocksteady Ofqual-regulated, exam-free music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London. Parents can follow their child's progress through their own online via the Rocksteady Parent Timeline as well as seeing how far your child has come when they perform in their termly concert to the whole school.

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 Senacre Wood Primary School, we are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music in a variety of different contexts.

The music leader delivers weekly singing assemblies to both KS1 and KS2 to promote the profile of and love for music. Through singing together, it increases positive mood and self-esteem, bonding our pupils and creating a feeling of closeness. Singing assemblies provide a way to increase our sense of community at Senacre Wood, while helping to improve students' physical and mental well-being and their musicality. It allows opportunities to develop their singing skills and gain an understanding of how ensembles work. Our singing assemblies work alongside our diverse music curriculum and helps to develop and broaden the children's understanding and knowledge of music and composers throughout history and across a range of genres and cultures. Our pupils enjoy offering and sharing their own preferences for repertoire to be listened to and explored in singing assemblies. Celebrations such as Harvest festival, Christmas plays, nativities and special celebrations in our local church, demonstrate

that music is important to the life of our school and gives our pupils the opportunities to perform song rehearsed in singing assemblies and showcase musical talents.

The choir have the opportunity to attend the Young Voices concert every year and they work hard in choir club to rehearse challenging repertoire for their performance in the concert, igniting a love for music, empowering children to discover their voices and build their confidence. This great experience enables children to share their enjoyment and love of singing and it is a platform for our school to inspire teamwork, nurture creativity and artistic expression and provide a lifelong love for music.

There are many performance opportunities for our pupils to take part in and to experience throughout the year including the Young Voices concert, Rocksteady termly performances, instrumentalist performances during music assemblies and church services, performances to parents in church for Harvest and Christmas, EYFS harvest performance to parents, EYFS nativity, choir Christmas performance at a local care home, our choir Summer Showcase to parents and World Music Day performances in assembly.

In the future

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

At Senacre Wood Primary School, we are committed to providing high-quality, accessible for all, music provision. We aim to review this document yearly in order to keep our high aspirations for all pupils.

This year we will look to providing further fresh experiences for the children to enjoy live concerts and performances throughout the year from external visitors and musicians.

Through performances and WCIT, we aim to get as many children as possible passionate about playing an instrument and we will continue to develop our WCIT curriculum in KS2. We aim to encourage continuation of instrumental learning through extra small ensembles during school time, signposting parents to 1:1 tuition and music courses in our local area and promoting Rocksteady band lessons.

We want to continue to provide high quality learning, enrichment opportunities, links with the community, share good practice with others via our collaboration and to continue to promote a love of music.

Further information (optional)

Kent Music School is our local music hub which supports our development and implementation of high-quality music in our school. They facilitate networks and workshops, CPD and teacher training, specialist consultancy and provide music lessons in our local area.

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.