

Music development plan summary: St Paul's C of E Primary School, Dorking

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	13.05.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.09.2026
Name of the school music lead	Lloyd Hurrell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Surrey
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.

At St Paul's, music is at the heart of school life. All pupils receive high quality curriculum music teaching, designed to develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music.

Music is taught through the Charanga scheme, which is followed consistently across the school to ensure clear progression in knowledge and skills. The curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021), while remaining rooted in the structure and progression provided by Charanga. Pupils develop their understanding through listening, performing and composing across a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions.

Music is taught weekly in all year groups, with a typical lesson lasting approximately 1 hour. This ensures consistent and sustained musical development for all pupils.

Progression is carefully structured. In Key Stage 1, pupils focus on developing a sense of pulse, simple rhythms and singing. In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils begin to explore notation, improvisation and simple composition. In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils develop more complex rhythmic understanding and further refine their improvisation and composition skills.

Singing is a central part of the curriculum and wider school life. Pupils sing regularly within lessons and weekly collective worship, building confidence and enjoyment.

All pupils in Year 3 take part in whole-class ensemble teaching through the Surrey Arts 'Tune Up' programme, where they learn a brass instrument for a term. This culminates in a performance for parents and the school community.

The curriculum is fully inclusive. Pupils with SEND are supported through adapted resources and teaching approaches, including simplified instrumental parts, visual supports, and printed materials where needed. Ear defenders are available for pupils who require them, ensuring all children can access and enjoy music lessons.

The school works in partnership with Surrey Arts, who provide instrumental teachers and support the delivery of high quality music provision.

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.

St Paul's offers a wide range of opportunities for pupils to engage in music beyond the classroom.

A significant strength of the school's provision is the breadth of instrumental tuition available. Specialist teachers from Surrey Arts deliver approximately 68 individual or small-group instrumental lessons each week. These lessons cover a range of instruments, including piano, guitar, recorder and trumpet.

Instrumental tuition is funded by parents, with financial support available for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding to ensure equitable access. Pupils are also able to take instruments home where appropriate, particularly where instruments are loaned through Surrey Arts, enabling regular practice and progression.

A school choir runs weekly at lunchtime and provides pupils with the opportunity to develop their singing skills and perform regularly. The choir performs both within school and in the local community, including concerts and events. Participation is currently a smaller group of pupils, with plans in place to increase engagement.

Pupils who receive instrumental tuition may also work towards graded music examinations in partnership with their instrumental teachers, supporting continued progression and musical development.

Throughout the year, pupils are given opportunities to perform in both a mid-year concert, showcasing instrumental learners, and a larger end-of-year concert open to all pupils. These performances often take place at the local church and provide valuable opportunities for pupils to share their learning with families and the wider community.

This provision is further strengthened through the school's involvement in the Surrey Music Hub, ensuring access to high quality teaching, resources and wider musical opportunities.

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.

Music is a highly visible and celebrated part of school life at St Paul's, with a wide range of opportunities for pupils to engage in live and shared musical experiences.

Singing forms a central part of collective worship, with pupils participating in weekly singing during assemblies. In addition, the headteacher delivers a weekly "music fact file", broadening pupils' musical knowledge and exposing them to a diverse range of genres, composers and musical traditions.

Pupils are also given regular opportunities to perform informally. In the weekly celebration assembly, one musical act performs as the rest of the school enters and leaves, providing a consistent platform for individual/group performance and building confidence.

Performance opportunities are embedded across the school. All pupils take part in class assemblies, and there is a clear progression of performance experiences throughout each key stage. In the Early Years and Key Stage 1, pupils perform in nativity productions, with Reception and Year 2 leading and Year 1 supporting through singing. In Key Stage 2, pupils continue to build performance confidence, with Year 3 contributing singing, Year 4 taking on main performance roles, Year 5 participating in large-scale performances at the O2 Arena, and Year 6 leading their end-of-year production.

Pupils also benefit from opportunities to experience live music beyond the classroom. This includes participation in large-scale performances at the O2 Arena, as well as visits from musicians. Parent musicians have performed for pupils, and ensembles such as the Ashcombe Orchestra from the local secondary school have provided live performances, supported through links within the Surrey Music Hub.

These experiences ensure that all pupils have access to high quality live music, both as performers and as audience members, regardless of background.

In the future

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

The school is committed to further strengthening its already rich music provision. A key priority is to develop staff confidence in delivering high quality music lessons. This will be supported through targeted professional development, including short, focused training opportunities, the sharing of resources and modelling of effective practice.

Another priority is to improve assessment in music to ensure that pupil progress is clearly understood and effectively tracked. A simple and consistent approach to assessment will be introduced, focusing on key musical skills and supported through observation and recorded evidence.

The school also aims to increase participation in co-curricular music, particularly within the school choir. This will be achieved through raising the profile of the choir in assemblies, offering open rehearsal opportunities and encouraging wider pupil involvement. Further opportunities for informal performance will be developed, allowing pupils to share their musical learning more regularly and build confidence as performers. Through these developments, St Paul's aims to ensure that all pupils continue to benefit from a high quality, inclusive and inspiring music education.

Further information (optional)

St Paul's works closely with Surrey Arts as part of the Surrey Music Hub to support both curriculum and co-curricular music provision, including instrumental teaching and whole-class programmes.