

Music development plan summary: St Mark's Church of England Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Fern Galloway
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Tees Valley Music Hub
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 Mark's Church of England Primary School, curriculum music lessons are taught in Key Stage 1 and 2 for one hour a week. Our school follows a bespoke music curriculum which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum. It is designed with our children's developing awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of a wide variety of music at its core. Charanga is the main teaching tool used to deliver this curriculum, with a custom teaching scheme accessible for all staff across the four schools in the One Excellence Multi Academy Trust.

Early Years

In Nursery and Reception, music is taught using the Kodály approach supported by First Thing Music resources. Singing is the central part of the music curriculum in Early Years, with children playing musical games and singing simple songs as they begin to develop a sense of beat (pulse) and rhythm.

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, children build on their musical foundations using the Kodály approach supported by First Thing Music resources. By building their repertoire of musical games and songs, they continue to develop their sense of beat (pulse) whilst further developing their understanding of rhythm through the use of 'rhythm syllables' and pitch through 'hand signs'. A specialist music teacher delivers these Kodály sessions to Year 1 and Year 2 every fortnight.

Alongside this, children in Key Stage 1 also begin to develop their appreciation of a wide variety of musical genres through custom genre-based units of work using Charanga (as Key Stage 2 – see below).

Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2 the music curriculum is designed to ensure children are given the opportunity to explore different genres of music in depth. Each custom unit of work focuses on a particular genre of music, with opportunities to listen to a rich variety of music from this genre, as well as drawing links to modern music that has been influenced by it.

In every lesson, children are given the opportunity to sing songs, develop their musical understanding (practical and theoretical) and play melodic instruments. Children are also given the opportunity to engage in units that focus solely on developing their proficiency on a particular instrument, including reading standard notation.

St Mark's curriculum music is supported by our local music hub lead partner (Tees Valley Music Service). Our children take part in termly 'Snappy Music' activities such as 'Snappy Christmas' (KS2) and 'Snappy Spring' (KS1). We also fully engage with other projects where possible, such as the TVMS and Royal Opera House 'Create and Sing' project (2023-24).

In Summer 2025, St Mark's was appointed as one of Tees Valley Music Service's Lead Schools, acknowledging our outstanding dedication to music teaching. As part of this, we are looking forward to building access to a wider range of instruments, such as Soundbeam and keyboards, into our curriculum to further develop music proficiency and engagement. We are also looking forward to sharing best practice and developing our musical offer further through dialogue and engagement with other Lead Schools in the Tees Valley.

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.

Music Tuition

At St Mark's, we offer a wide variety of co-curricular music opportunities.

Rocksteady's weekly in-school band lessons take place every Wednesday afternoon. All children in Key Stage 1 and 2 are able to sign up to learn to play a band instrument (vocals, guitar, bass, keyboard, drums) with lessons charged directly to parents/carers. A free bursary place is offered as well as school and match-funded Rocksteady sessions.

Music Monsters piano lessons take place every Thursday afternoon. All children in Key Stage 1 and 2 are able to sign up with lessons charged directly to parents/carers.

Instrument tuition (1-1) by Tees Valley Music Service takes place weekly for children in school, with lessons charged directly to parents/carers.

Music Ensembles

From 2026, our school will be offering a Music Club after school for children in KS2 led by school staff. These fully inclusive, free sessions give children the opportunity to develop their confidence in song writing, music making, performing and appreciation of music, with frequent opportunities to perform throughout the year.

Musical Qualifications

Pupils who take part in Rocksteady music sessions can work towards Trinity College 'Performance in a band' qualification. <https://www.trinitycollege.com/resource?id=9452>

Pupils who take part in Music Monsters piano tuition currently work towards to ABRSM and/or MTB prep test level, giving them a strong foundation upon which to pursue formal grades if they wish to. <https://www.mtbexams.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/MTB-Piano-Pre-Grade-Introductory-Full-Syllabus-2023-FV.pdf>

Music Monsters students have also been given the opportunity to work towards their 'Discover' Arts Award.

Pupils who receive 1-1 tuition work towards graded exams with appropriate examining boards.

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.

Throughout the year, opportunities are planned for pupils to access a wide variety of musical experiences both in and out of school.

Termly concerts take place in school by the musicians who take part in Rocksteady and Music Monsters tuition for children, staff and parents/carers.

Each year, pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 take part in Tees Valley Music Service's 'Snappy' singing events (Snappy Christmas – KS2 and Snappy Spring – KS1) in which schools from across the local area come together for a day of singing with a live band, culminating in a performance for parents/carers. In Summer 2024, Year 2 were involved in the ROH and TVMS 'Create and Sing' project and performance alongside professional musicians and singers from The Royal Opera House

Our school has formed partnerships with other local schools to ensure wider opportunities for musical learning.

Yarm School offers opportunities for children to engage in 'Singing Days' (previously attended by Year 2 pupils - January 2024).

Our Lady and St Bede Secondary School's end of year performance of Sister Act (July 2024) and Beauty and the Beast (July 2025) was attended by Year 5 pupils.

Pupils from Year 2-6 are given the opportunity to become a 'chorister for a day' and perform at Durham Cathedral. Parents/carers apply for this opportunity.

Our school looks for frequent opportunities within our local area to allow pupils to experience performances concerts and shows. Past opportunities have included:

The Christmas 'Big Gig' was attended by Year 4 pupils at Middlesbrough Town Hall (December 2024) and this year's Y4 cohort are booked to attend.

A tour of 'The Globe' theatre in Stockton – on – Tees was attended by Year 6 pupils.

All these events and the transport costs are subsidised by school and/or providers.

In the future

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

The music lead at St Mark's is working closely with the Curriculum Trust Lead across the One Excellence Multi Academy Trust to develop the bespoke music curriculum and monitor its effective implementation in all four schools within the Trust.

Future plans for further development of this curriculum and music provision include:

- Increase opportunities for children to engage with music technology.
- Opportunities to listen to more live music to deepen children's understanding of a wide range of musical genres.
- Opportunities to play and perform as part of a school band/instrumental group.

Further information (optional)

St Mark's Music Curriculum overview:

PLEASE ADD IN

Tees Valley Music Service (lead partner of the Tees Valley Music Hub):

<https://www.tvms.org.uk/>

Rocksteady Music School:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Music Monster Piano Lessons:

<https://www.musicmonsters.co.uk/>