

Music development plan summary: St Dennis Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	01.06.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.10.26
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Parekh
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Cathy Brokenshire
Name of local music hub	ASONE Cornwall Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Cornwall Youth Choir, TPAT music opportunities, visiting musicians and workshop/tuition providers

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 Dennis Primary Academy, music forms an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum. We aim to provide all pupils with opportunities to sing, listen, perform, compose and evaluate music from a diverse range of cultures, traditions, genres and historical periods.

Music is taught for a minimum of 30 minutes each week across Key Stages 1 and 2. Lessons are carefully sequenced to ensure progression in musical knowledge, skills and vocabulary. Inspired by successful practice seen across other TPAT and Cornwall schools, as well as following the Charanga schemes, our curriculum is built around the key strands of:

- Performing

- Singing
- Listening and Appraising
- Composing and Improvising
- Musical Notation
- Understanding the Inter-related Dimensions of Music
- Musical History and Cultural Understanding

Children regularly explore:

- Pitch
- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Timbre
- Duration
- Texture
- Structure
- Rhythm and Pulse

Lessons provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Sing confidently and accurately.
- Play tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.
- Learn basic notation and performance skills.
- Improvise and compose original pieces.
- Listen critically and discuss music using appropriate vocabulary.
- Perform individually and collaboratively.

The curriculum introduces music from Britain and around the world, enabling children to develop respect for different musical traditions and communities.

We are committed to inclusion and ensuring children with SEND can access and succeed in music. Teachers adapt resources, teaching approaches and practical activities to meet individual needs and celebrate achievement.

- Children also benefit from weekly Musician of the Month assemblies that build understanding of a wide range of musical genres and artists.

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 Dennis Primary Academy offers a growing range of opportunities for pupils to engage with music beyond the classroom.

Current and planned opportunities include:

- School choir open to Key Stage 2 pupils.
- Weekly singing opportunities.
- Instrumental tuition through Cornwall Music Hub and approved peripatetic teachers.
- Financial support and subsidy opportunities for eligible pupils.
- Participation in local, trust-wide and hub-led music projects.
- Opportunities for pupils to perform as soloists and ensemble members.
- Lunchtime or after-school music clubs, subject to staffing and pupil interest.

The school aims to work closely with ASONE Cornwall Music Hub to increase access to instrumental learning and wider musical experiences.

Children demonstrating a particular interest or talent in music will be encouraged to access opportunities beyond school, including Cornwall Youth Choir events and local ensembles where appropriate.

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 celebrated throughout the year and forms an important part of school life.

Pupils have opportunities to participate in:

- Harvest celebrations.
- Christmas productions and concerts.
- Singing at community events.
- Class 'Fab Finish' performances.
- Special whole-school performances.

- End-of-year celebrations.
- Trust-wide music events.
- Cornwall Music Hub projects.
- Workshops delivered by visiting musicians.
- Live musical performances.

Children are encouraged not only to perform, but also to experience and appreciate live music. Wherever possible, pupils will have opportunities to:

- Watch professional musicians perform.
- Participate in workshops.
- Explore a wide range of instruments.
- Learn about music-related careers.
- Experience music from different cultures and traditions.

Music is also promoted through assemblies, classroom listening activities and wider curriculum links. Musician of the Month assemblies introduce pupils to a broad range of musical styles, composers and performers throughout the year.

In the future

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

Over the next three years, St Dennis Primary Academy aims to:

- Fully embed and evaluate the music curriculum across all year groups.
- Develop a sustainable school choir with regular performances.
- Increase opportunities for instrumental tuition.
- Establish a school ensemble or band.
- Expand partnerships with Cornwall Music Hub and external music providers.
- Increase participation in trust-wide music events.
- Enhance musical opportunities for disadvantaged pupils.
- Improve assessment and tracking in music.
- Audit and develop instrument resources.
- Increase staff confidence through high-quality music CPD.
- Explore music technology to support composing, recording and performance.
- Create regular opportunities for pupils to showcase musical learning to parents and the wider community.

Further information (optional)

St Dennis Primary Academy works within Truro and Penwith Academy Trust and benefits from collaborative opportunities across the trust's schools. The school also works alongside ASONE Cornwall Music Hub, which supports schools in providing high-quality music education, instrumental learning and performance opportunities for children across Cornwall.

This Music Development Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that all pupils continue to receive a rich, inclusive and ambitious music education