

Music Development Plan Summary: Sunnyside Primary Academy

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	Bethanie Matthews
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	NMPAT
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	RockSteady

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.

We are passionate about providing every child with a high-quality music education that is inclusive, inspiring, and ambitious. Music is a vital part of our school curriculum, supporting not only pupils' creativity and confidence but also their wider personal and academic development.

Our music provision reflects our core curriculum pillars:

- Aspiring for Excellence
- Enriching Language and Communication
- Cultivating a Strong Community
- Broadening Horizons
- Building a Knowledge-Rich Foundation

What We Teach in the Classroom

We use the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC) to deliver music lessons from Reception to Year 6. This high-quality scheme is fully informed by the Model Music

Curriculum (DfE, 2021) and supports our ambition to build deep subject knowledge and practical music skills across the primary years.

Children explore all key areas of music: listening, performing, composing, and appraising. They learn to:

- Read and write musical notation
- Develop an understanding of rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, structure, and texture
- Perform using voice and a variety of instruments
- Appreciate a wide range of musical traditions, genres, and composers from around the world and across time

Music lessons are taught weekly:

- **EYFS:** 30 minutes (integrated and structured sessions)
- **Key Stage 1 (Years 1–2):** 45 minutes
- **Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6):** 60 minutes

This time is dedicated solely to music and ensures every child receives a consistent and progressive experience.

View our full Music Curriculum here: [Sunnyside Primary Academy - Music](#)

Inclusion and Accessibility

Music is for every child. We are fully committed to ensuring that disabled pupils and those with special educational needs (SEND) can access and enjoy music at every stage.

We do this by:

- Adapting instruments and tasks to individual needs
- Using visual prompts, simplified notation, and hands-on resources
- Providing additional adult support when needed
- Celebrating all forms of musical expression and participation

Our full SEND provision is detailed in our SEND Information Report here: [Sunnyside Primary Academy - Special Educational Needs](#)

Instrumental and Singing Opportunities

Throughout the school, pupils have regular opportunities to sing and play instruments in class.

- In **Key Stage 2**, every child takes part in **Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET)** in partnership with the **Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT)**. Pupils learn to play instruments such as the ukulele and recorder, often performing for parents and peers.
- **Rocksteady Music School** provides weekly in-school band lessons during curriculum time. Pupils form real bands, learning guitar, drums, keyboard or vocals — boosting confidence, teamwork, and musicianship.

- All pupils take part in weekly singing assemblies and have opportunities to perform in school productions, assemblies, and community events.

These practical experiences are central to our belief in **music for all** — regardless of background, ability, or prior experience.

Partnerships Supporting Music in School

We work with external partners to enrich and strengthen our curriculum music offer:

NMPAT (Local Music Hub):

- Provide whole-class instrumental teaching
- Offer access to wider music groups and festivals
- Support staff training and CPD

Rocksteady Music School:

- Provide inclusive band-based music sessions in school
- Cater to all abilities and musical interests

These partnerships help us deliver exciting and inclusive music experiences, and offer progression pathways for pupils with a strong interest in music.

Music at our school is not an optional extra — it is a core part of our curriculum and our values. We believe every child deserves to discover their musical voice, whether through performance, composition, or simply listening and appreciating.

If you'd like to learn more about our curriculum or how to support your child's musical journey, please visit our website or speak with Miss Matthews, Music Lead.

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.

Sunnyside Primary Academy offers tuition outside of music lesson time. Pupils can access:

- One-to-one instrument lessons-guitar and Violin (Private lessons through NMPAT)
- Small-group instrument lessons. (Private lessons through NMPAT)
- Band lessons-voice, keyboard, drums, and guitar. (Private lessons through Rock Steady.)
- Pupils can choose to join a KS1 and KS2 choir which takes place after 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.

Planned musical experiences and opportunities at Sunnyside Primary Academy include:

- Weekly singing in assembly for all pupils.
- Musical performances (Christmas) and a Y6 Summer Production.
- Annual visit to the country wide Young Voice event
- Termly performances from the Rock Steady bands.
- End of term performance by Y3 pupils (Upper Strings).
- An annual whole school theatre trip.

The Friends of Sunnyside parent group provides financial support for the academy's performing arts budget. There are subsidies in place for pupils facing economic hardship.

In the future

At our academy we have an ambition to enrich, broaden and continue to develop the opportunities and curriculum provision for Music. In this section we set out what this could be and what we hope to achieve

A self-audit of the academy's music provision has highlighted that the following actions must be undertaken. By the end of 2025/26, there must be:

- Annual CPD that enables all staff to deliver high quality music lessons to all pupils.
- Additional opportunities for pupils to demonstrate their learning to Parents/Carers