

Music Development Plan Summary: Sunnyside Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
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):** 60 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.

- The **Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC)** provides children with opportunities throughout each academic year to compose and perform both solo and with others. During the warmup, children learn short songs to warm up their voices as well as a vehicle to demonstrate a teaching point within the lesson.
- In **Key Stage 2**, all pupils participate in **Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET)** in partnership with **Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT)**. Pupils learn and perform on instruments including the recorder and ukulele, developing ensemble skills, notation reading, musicianship and performance confidence. Opportunities are provided for pupils to perform to parents, carers and the wider school community.
- **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.
- Pupils from Year 2-6 have the opportunity to take part in **Young Voices** as part of the school choir.

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 Ensemble Teaching (WCET) for Key Stage 2 pupils.
- Offer access to instrumental tuition, ensembles, festivals and county music groups.
- Support staff training and professional development.
- Provide progression routes for pupils wishing to continue instrumental study beyond whole-class provision.

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:

- Band lessons-voice, keyboard, drums, and guitar. (Private lessons through Rock Steady.)
- Pupils can choose to join our school choir which takes place after school.

Pupils demonstrating particular interest or aptitude in music are signposted to additional opportunities through NMPAT including instrumental tuition, ensembles, county groups, holiday programmes and performance opportunities.

The academy works to minimise financial barriers to participation. Support may be available through Friends of Sunnyside, Pupil Premium funding and other discretionary assistance where appropriate, ensuring that all pupils can access 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.

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 Voices event
- Termly performances from the Rock Steady bands.
- An annual whole school theatre trip.

Pupils regularly experience live music throughout their time at Sunnyside Primary Academy. This includes participation in Young Voices, performances from visiting professional musicians, musical theatre productions and performances delivered through our partnership with NMPAT. Wherever possible, each year group will experience at least one high-quality live music performance annually, either in school or through educational visits. These experiences expose pupils to a broad range of musical styles, traditions and performance contexts, inspiring further participation and deepening musical understanding.

Review of 2025/26 Priorities

Priority 1: Annual Music CPD for Staff

Action completed. Staff received curriculum support and guidance through subject leadership and external partnerships. Monitoring indicates growing teacher confidence in delivering the PKC music curriculum and maintaining curriculum progression.

Impact: Greater consistency in curriculum delivery across year groups and increased confidence when teaching music vocabulary, notation and performance skills.

Priority 2: Increased Opportunities for Parents and Carers to Observe Musical Learning

Action completed. Pupils participated in performances through assemblies, Christmas productions, the Year 6 production, Rocksteady concerts, Young Voices and curriculum-based performances.

Impact: Increased opportunities for pupils to perform publicly and share musical achievements with families, helping to raise engagement and confidence in music.

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 July 2027:

- All teaching staff will participate in annual music CPD to strengthen curriculum delivery.
- Each year group will provide at least one performance opportunity for parents and carers.
- Pupils will demonstrate increasing use of subject-specific musical vocabulary through curriculum monitoring and pupil voice.
- Music leaders will monitor participation and progression to ensure equitable access for all pupils.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Music provision is monitored through lesson visits, curriculum reviews, participation data, pupil voice, staff voice and performance opportunities. Findings are reported to leaders termly and inform academy improvement priorities and the annual review of the Music Development Plan.