

Music development plan summary for: *St Margaret's CEVA Primary School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Claire Gower
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk 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.

Curriculum Music at St Margaret's

Our music curriculum offers a wide variety of musical experiences to all pupils from Reception to Year 6, through a progressive, 'building blocks' curriculum.

A strong music curriculum should develop core skills in the following:

- Singing and Performing
- Playing instruments
- Listening and responding (in EY and KS1)
- Listening and evaluating (in KS2)
- Composing (and improvising)
- Music History - e.g. composers, instrument development, musical periods

We use a variety of different resources to teach our creative curriculum. These include using online packages such as ‘Charanga’, supported by our local music hub, live music, online resources offered by experts in their field of musical study, for example English National Opera (ENO) and projects with Britten Pears Arts. We have also written bespoke schemes of work which reflect the diversity of our school community and link learning with other curriculum subjects to further embed learning. We value the importance of pupils having a sense of why we make music as well as learning the core skills, so lessons are designed to be interactive, reflective and fun. We link musical learning to significant annual events in the year, such as Remembrance, and, of course, to our Christian faith which is celebrated so beautifully through music, especially singing in praise.

It is important that children recognise that the music they listen to at home for pleasure or they might hear in a Disney film, for instance, has developed from other musical beginnings. An example is the development of R&B and Hip Hop coming from the humble beginnings of Spirituals, Jazz and Blues.

How do we teach curriculum music at St Margaret’s?

Each year group is timetabled to have one music lesson every week, taught or supported by a specialist music teacher.

Year Group	Time Allocation
Reception	Music, especially singing, is incorporated as part of early years continuous provision
Key Stage 1	1 hour per week
Key Stage 2	1 hour per week (Years 3, 4 & 5) Year 6 receive a shorter weekly lesson during the first half of Autumn and Summer Terms as they have large scale performances in the second half of both terms, where additional music learning is added. This is important for our Year 6 pupils as they come to the end of their musical learning journey in the primary phase.

We refer to the Model Music Curriculum (this is non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3), for reference, but have not implemented this as the basis of our scheme of work, as we prefer to offer a bespoke musical programme of study wherever possible. We draw on the cultural capital and diversity of our school community to enrich our curriculum.

We sing regularly in lessons, using our voice in many different ways - singing, chanting and in body percussion activities. Pupils learn to play a range of untuned percussion using correct technique at an early stage, then move on to tuned percussion (glockenspiels, chime bars and boomwhackers). We explore how sounds are made and how to control the sound, for example, changing dynamics (volume). In Year 4, we offer whole-school ensemble tuition, playing recorder and ukulele. Years 5 & 6 have opportunities to use a variety of instruments such as the ones mentioned, plus keyboard and are encouraged to use their own instruments (where they have lessons either at or out of school), in composition and class performances whenever possible.

Our local music hub offers us a range of curriculum support, continuing professional development opportunities for our school and performance opportunities in association with the education department at Britten Pears Arts (Snape Maltings). We also have a good relationship with ENO (English National Opera) and contacts with the OAE (Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment).

Please see the curriculum section of our school website for the Music Long Term Plan and Progression Map which explains our curriculum in more detail.

Part B: Co-Curricular Music - Instrumental tuition, choirs & ensembles

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.

We have a number of instrumental tutors who visit the school weekly, providing instrumental tuition to pupils in Key Stage 2 on a broad range of instruments. These include:

Woodwind	Flute Clarinet Saxophone
Strings	Violin Cello
Brass	Cornet / Trumpet Trombone
Keyboard	Electric
Guitar	Acoustic

Lessons are taught mainly in small groups and sometimes on a one-to-one basis. Attainment (progress) is monitored regularly by our visiting teachers (VMTs) and they liaise almost weekly with our Music Lead. The VMTs and Music Lead collaborate so that any pupil who needs additional support or shows exceptional talent, is supported in the best ways possible. For example, our school interpreter may accompany a child to their instrumental lesson who needs support with language until the tutor and pupil have found ways to communicate well. Our approach is child centred throughout.

Families are invited to sign up for instrumental tuition in the Summer Term preceding the start date of lessons in the following academic year. We have two private tutors who supply instrumental tuition and we purchase instrumental tuition services from our music hub, the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub.

As a school, we have to commit to a package of tuition in the early Summer of the year preceding the start of the following academic year. We then offer instrumental lessons at a set fee to all pupils who sign up to these lessons. In the current academic year (2024-2025) this is a total of £190 for the year, paid in three instalments. We

appreciate this is a big commitment for some families. We can sometimes offer financial support to families towards these costs on a case by case basis.

In addition to instrumental lessons, our co-curricular offer includes choirs and ensembles. We have two choirs - Upper School and Lower School. The development of singing at St Margaret's is very important and pupils take great pride in being members of our choirs. The cohort for these is:

Upper School Choir: Years 4, 5 and 6

Lower School Choir: Years 2 and 3 (Year 1 invited to join half way through the school year)

Year 1 pupils are invited to join the Lower School Choir towards the end of the Spring term. This allows them time to settle fully into the routines of Key Stage 1 schooling, and allows the Years 2 and 3 members of the choir to develop their singing skills more quickly. Year 3 pupils support Year 2 pupils in their vocal development. By the Spring Term, Year 2 pupils are making a lovely blended sound. We invite Year 1 pupils to then join us and Year 3 pupils become mentors for Year 1.

By the time pupils reach Upper School Choir, they are proficient singers, with well trained voices and good aural (listening) skills. Our older members learn repertoire quickly, with good memory and harmonise well, singing in parts.

Instrumental ensembles include a string quartet, recorder ensemble and the growing development of a school orchestra. This is currently in its infancy but is being received with great enthusiasm by our instrumentalists. We aim to have a strong body of orchestral players by the end of this school year.

All of the music clubs we run at school are FREE OF CHARGE. These are provided by school staff and no cost is passed on to our families for these.

We have a range of instruments that we can loan to pupils, free of charge, however, the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub have a vast array of instruments that families can loan at very reasonable prices and in some cases, hire is free of charge. Hubs were recently able to buy brand new instruments as part of a capital purchase so the quality of instruments our pupils are receiving for hire far exceed those we can offer from school stock.

As we purchase instrumental tuition services from our Music Hub, our families are entitled to receive a 50% discount on the cost of hiring an instrument for their child.

Remission for instrumental hire (up to 100%) is also available for families who are eligible. See below for Suffolk Hub information on remission of fees for instrument hire.

<https://suffolkcountymusicservice.co.uk/take-part/remissions-information>

Our local high school is the base for County Music Groups and Saturday Music School; our pupils are invited to take part in these on Saturday mornings. They also run holiday sessions, often free of charge, which we advertise and share information about these with our families. The centrally placed church, St Mary le Tower, next year to become Ipswich Minster, also offers holiday music clubs for a small fee and is starting a singing group for Key Stage 1 pupils in January 2025.

For the teaching of instrumental tuition, we have a fabulous music room at school, big enough for individual and group lessons and for small ensemble rehearsals. For larger groups, such as our choirs and orchestra, we use the school hall.

Part C: Musical Events & 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.

We value music highly both as a stand alone subject and as an important part of the life of our school. Music provides us with many opportunities to come together in a united activity and improve well being. We share in whole-school music making every week in singing assembly and as a part of our worship at St Margaret's Church every Wednesday. We enjoy listening to and watching others perform too. Some of our pupils' favourites are children's choirs such as Libera and One Voice Children's Choir.

We hold a number of performing opportunities each year, including:

- ★ Reception & Year 1's joint Christmas showcase
- ★ Year 2's Nativity
- ★ KS2 Carol Concert (held at church)
- ★ DEI Network Showcase (Diversity & Inclusion)
- ★ Year 6's WW1 Living Museum
- ★ Musicians at PTA events
- ★ Celebration at Snape (festival of music in Suffolk Schools at Snape Maltings)
- ★ Summer Soiree Concert
- ★ Year 6 End of Year Show
- ★ Year 6 Leavers Service

- ★ Regular performances at church during our weekly services and special assemblies such as Harvest Festival and Easter

We take part in events outside school such as the Primary School's Concert at the Trees @ the Tower Festival in Ipswich, Carol Singing in the community, virtual events such as Big Sing organised by Britten Pears Arts, musical events at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral and attend live outreach concerts at Ipswich School (this year featured a jazz discovery concert and body percussion workshops).

Our aim is to continually evolve and enhance our musical offer and participation is as broad and inclusive as possible. KS2 year groups are given the opportunity to attend a live concert or participate in a music workshop annually. Both of our choirs gain performing experience regularly in church services and Upper School Choir participate in larger scale concerts at concert venues. There are minimal charges for these events as the majority are within walking distance. We will ask for a voluntary contribution if transport costs are involved and our PTA generously offers financial support in these cases too, so we can often provide transport free of charge.

In the Spring Term, we invite our visiting music teachers to share their talents with the children in an assembly. This gives pupils a live music experience, where they can ask questions, and advertises the instruments we have on offer that can be learnt at school.

In the future

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

Enrichment:

- Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub have recently begun offering pupils the opportunity to work towards an Arts Award, a nationally recognised qualification. This is something that we will be promoting in coming months in readiness for next academic year. The award levels are Discover, Explore, Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- We hope to participate in Young Voices concert at O2 or Wembley (Jan/Feb '26)
- We have just added Saxophone to our list of instruments on offer, so will be promoting this, Trombone and French Horn next academic year for pupils in Years 5 & 6.

Curriculum:

- Our Year 5s loved being part of an opera project last academic year, performing in a production with a professional orchestra (OAE) and professional opera singers. Following the success of this experience, we are incorporating a unit of study for Year 5, in conjunction with the Royal Opera House (ROH).

- We are proud of our vision of inclusion and diversity at St Margaret's. We wish to further develop diversity in the music curriculum, with a focus on under-represented groups which includes female composers, living composers, black and ethnic musicians.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go for support beyond the school.

Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub (County Music Service)

Phone: 01473 263400, open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Email: county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk.