

Music development plan summary: Rainford CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Thompson
Name of local music hub	St Helens
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.

In EYFS the main focus is singing and rhythm, although there are opportunities to explore instruments through some music lessons and continuous provision. In EYFS there is one short discrete music lesson which increases in length throughout the year. In addition, singing takes place throughout the school day, often linked to other learning opportunities, such as the singing of number rhymes, singing worship songs. All our pupils are taught to listen attentively, move to and talk about music, expressing their feelings and responses; sing in a group or on their own, increasingly matching the pitch and following the melody; they explore and engage in music making and dance, performing solo or in groups.

Within our music curriculum in KS1 and KS2 we teach all aspects of National Curriculum music through Music Express. In addition to the music units taught each year groups, all pupils in KS2 have access to whole-class instrument lessons taught by a music specialist from the Music Hub. This year, the children are learning samba drums, ukuleles and African instruments.

Curriculum music in our school is taught for at least 45 minutes each week in KS1 and KS2. We have a documents outlining a key composer and piece of music for each year group to regular listen to so by the time children leave our school, they will know the names of seven composers (historic and modern) and able to recognise their music.

In KS1 and KS2, we have mapped out the six elements of music to ensure that children have an alternate focus on:

- Composition
- Exploring sounds
- Beat
- Pitch
- Performance
- Structure – from Y3 onwards

Our music medium term plans (on our school website) detail how we teach music each half term and ensure that we teach age appropriate singing, listening, performing, reading notation, music technology, improvising and composing.

Singing is a strength of the school. Children sing in curriculum music, in worship and in concerts. Children sing songs recommended in Music Express, worship songs/hymns which are mapped out according to our half-termly Christian values, and music relating to key celebrations throughout the year.

All pupil premium children are fully engaged with curriculum music. All SEN pupils have been able to fully access curriculum music.

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.

All our pupils sing tunefully and with confidence in worship; pupils sing to backing tracks, in particular, 'Fishy Music', 'Pop Connections' and 'Hill Song Kids'.

We use singing to help 'sticky' learning in other subjects through, for example, songs which link to our history topic, songs which help us to learn the names of the oceans and/or continents in geography.

Our well-established and popular school choir is led by a member of staff (currently Mrs Shawcross). They meet to practise once a week after school. This choir is open to children in Y2-Y6. Children perform in Young Voices, School concerts, in church and in the community (for example, Rainford Christmas Fair).

Pupils perform in a production at least six times during primary school; SongFest, Nativity, Harvest, Easter and Y6 production. As well as these, class workshops for school and parents take place every autumn for each year group.

We also facilitate weekly in-school band lessons that celebrate fun, individuality and creativity through an external provider- Rocksteady.

- Rocksteady's inclusive approach helps children find a sense of belonging through new friendships and a shared love for music, whilst boosting social skills, wellbeing and confidence. Children can earn an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated music qualification, accredited

by Trinity College London. This co-curricular opportunity is suitable for any pupil in mainstream education, including children with SEND, EAL and additional behavioural needs.

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.

Each class listens to a piece of music which is relevant for their year group and listed in our Music Curriculum. They will listen to this piece of music regularly and be provided with information about the piece of music. This is from a range of time periods, styles and cultures.

The whole school visit the theatre each autumn to watch a musical production where they can listen to live music.

We have inspirational days each term where children learn 1 subject or more in a very creative way. We have a 'Rock Star' day each year where children can experience what it is like to be in a concert! The hall is transformed into a concert and children learn and listen to songs with a PSHE theme.

The Bible Tales Company visit our school and work with each year group either through class workshops or whole school musical experiences. This year, children from Y2 to Y6 will experience a musical show around the anti-bullying alliance theme for 2024 'Choose Respect!,' This production will delve into the world of online games too.

In partnership with PE we realise the importance of dance and moving expressively to music. Dance is taught as part of our PE curriculum to a range of different musical styles, for example Street Dance or clog dancing to traditional Lancashire folk music. Specialist dance teachers have come into school to teach the children a range of dances to a range of musical styles.

Parents are charged for external visits, i.e. to the theatre and to watch a concert. Pupil Premium children are able to access these experiences free of charge.

In the future

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

We work closely with local musicians and music groups within our community e.g. Rainford Ladies Choir. The choir donated £500 to the school and offered to work with our choir in the future. This is something that we plan to do.

Teaching staff will continue to receive CPD to build on knowledge and develop their teaching of the subject as required.

We will strengthen links with local high school especially to provide more opportunities for listening to live music; we will also ensure that all children have at least one opportunity (if not

more) to visit a concert hall and listen to a live orchestra. We will explore other opportunities for high quality musicians to perform for the children in school.

We will research how we can include the teaching of music technology through the use of Garage Band. This is in the view to improve the teaching of composing across the school; composing in KS2 can be taught through music technology.