St Sebastian's Primary School Development Plan

The national plan for music education sets out the government's vision to enable all children and young people in England to:

- learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together
- have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents, including professionally

The plan sets out how we will achieve this vision by 2030, emphasising the importance of partnerships between education settings, music hubs, music organisations working with young people and the music industry.

Our school

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.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	17/9/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	16/9/27
Name of the school music lead	Cathy Liversidge
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Our Music Curriculum

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 Sebastian's Primary School, we aim to develop confident, creative and enthusiastic musicians who enjoy making, performing and responding to music. Our music curriculum provides children with regular opportunities to: **sing, play and perform; listen and evaluate; compose and improvise** as well as start to develop their **notation** skills. It develops their musical knowledge and skills progressively throughout their time at the school.

Our whole-school music curriculum has been developed using the **Model Music Curriculum**, alongside resources and units from **Kapow** and **Sing Up**. These resources have been carefully selected and adapted to ensure that children experience a broad and balanced music curriculum, with clear progression in musical knowledge, vocabulary and practical skills.

Music is taught through a sequence of units across the academic year. Each term includes a focused unit for each year group containing **four key teaching lessons**, followed by a **fifth lesson dedicated to performance, assessment and/or evaluation**.

In the Foundation Stage, children develop a love of music through **singing, exploring sounds, movement and musical play**. They are encouraged to experiment with their voices, exploring different pitches, volumes and sounds, while developing their ability to join in with familiar songs, rhymes and chants. Children respond to music through movement, using their bodies to explore pulse, rhythm, tempo and changes in the music. They have regular opportunities to **explore and play a range of musical instruments**, developing an understanding of how different sounds can be created and combined. Through these experiences, children begin to develop the foundations of musical skills, including listening carefully, copying and creating simple rhythms, keeping a steady beat, expressing themselves through music and performing alongside others.

At St Sebastian's Primary School, our music curriculum is **inclusive and aspirational for all pupils**, ensuring that children with SEND are fully supported to participate, develop their musical skills and experience success. Before the Lincolnshire Music Service whole-class instrumental teaching begins, staff work with the service to **identify whether any adaptations or additional support may be**

required for individual pupils. Where appropriate, teaching approaches, instruments, resources or activities are adapted to remove barriers to participation. This may include visual prompts, simplified or repeated instructions, modified musical parts, additional modelling, alternative ways of playing an instrument or increased opportunities for rehearsal and support. Children are encouraged to participate alongside their peers wherever possible, with adaptations made to enable them to access the same musical experience and develop their individual skills. Our approach ensures that expectations remain **high and aspirational**, recognising that every child can be a musician and should have opportunities to perform, create, explore and enjoy music.

Extra-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.

In school, the following inclusive clubs are often offered at different points across the academic year:

KS1 Choir (after school)

KS2 Choir (after school)

KS1 Ocarina Club (after school or sometimes lunchtime)

In recent years, our KS2 choir has performed at Belvoir Castle, Young Voices, St Sebastian's Church as well as some of the local care homes.

In addition, there is the opportunity to undertake 1:1 lessons in violin, woodwind and piano (in the school day and delivered by either the music hub or private specialist teachers). Through these lessons, children can achieve graded exam qualifications in their chosen instrument.

Individual instrumental lessons provided by Lincolnshire Music Service support families who qualify for Pupil Premium and looked after children by subsidising the cost of lessons.

Our talented instrumentalists are also encouraged to perform to the community in our 'Carols by Candlelight' that we organise at our local church, which showcases the fantastic talent we have at St Sebastians.

Musical Events and 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.

Daily Worship

On Mondays, during our whole-school collective worship, a piece of music is introduced and the composer, performer, or singer is discussed. This piece is then played at the beginning and end of every worship session throughout the week, providing children with regular opportunities to listen to, appreciate, and engage with a wide range of musical genres.

We pride ourselves on offering opportunities for all pupils to sing with joy, confidence, and expertise through our weekly choral worship. This session is led by the Music Subject Leader or another experienced member of staff. Choral worship begins with vocal warm-ups and focuses on one main song each week, either introducing a new piece or developing and refining singing techniques. Songs may include solo parts, small group performances, or harmonies, providing challenge for more able singers while enabling all pupils to develop their musical skills.

As part of our weekly worship timetable, the theme of the music often links to the school's value for the term. Songs are taught using *Out of the Ark* resources, ensuring that singing is accessible, engaging, and inclusive for all learners, including children in EYFS and pupils with SEND.

All class teachers are expected to attend choral worship each week. Their participation demonstrates the value our school places on singing and music and encourages children to engage positively in musical activities. During worship, teachers observe pupils and identify those who have demonstrated excellent musicality, enthusiasm, performance skills, or progress. These children are recognised as **'Singers of the Week'**, have their photograph displayed on the school music board, and receive a values point to celebrate their achievement.

Throughout the week, pupils have opportunities to practise the song introduced during choral worship and often perform it during our Friday **Shine Awards Assembly**. On the final Friday of each month, the Shine Assembly takes place in church, where children have the opportunity to perform their songs to parents and the wider school community, showcasing their learning and celebrating their musical achievements.

Performance opportunities

At St Sebastian's Primary School, we ensure that **every year group has meaningful opportunities to perform to an audience during the school year**. Performance is an important part of our music curriculum, enabling children to develop confidence, musical skills, teamwork and the ability to perform as part of an ensemble. Performances are planned across the year and are linked wherever possible to curriculum learning, school events and celebrations.

- In **Autumn 1**, Year 4 perform their *Rainforest Body Percussion* work to the whole school.
- In **Autumn 2**, EYFS perform their Christmas songs and Year 1 and Year 2 take part in the school Nativity. Year 3 also perform as part of the **Harvest Service**, while Year 5 contribute to the **Christmas Church Service**.
- In **Spring 1**, Year 6 develop their singing skills through a performance linked to the school's **World War II Day.**
- In **Spring 2,** Year 4 have an opportunity to perform as part of the **Easter Service.** Spring 2 also provides an opportunity for Year 4 pupils to showcase their progress following the **Lincolnshire Music Service whole-class instrumental programme**, performing to parents and families. Year 5 demonstrate their developing rhythmic and ensemble skills through an **African drumming performance for the whole school**.
- During **Summer 1**, Year 2 perform using **ocarinas**, while Year 3 share their learning through a **Samba Sounds performance**.
- Finally, in **Summer 2**, Year 6 celebrate their musical and wider primary school journey through an **end-of-year performance**.

Instrumental performances with Lincolnshire Music Service

St Sebastian's Primary School works in partnership with **Lincolnshire Music Service** to provide a 12-week programme of whole-class instrumental teaching for pupils in Year 4. In previous years, pupils have had the opportunity to learn a range of instruments, including **violins, clarinets and brass instruments**. The programme enables every child to experience learning an instrument, developing their musical skills, confidence, listening, concentration and ability to perform as part of an ensemble. The 12-week programme culminates in an **end-of-term performance for parents and families**, providing children with a meaningful opportunity to celebrate their progress and share their learning with an audience. The experience can also act as a pathway into further musical opportunities beyond school, including **individual peripatetic instrumental lessons** for pupils who wish to continue developing their skills. In previous years, pupils from St Sebastian's have

also had the opportunity to perform as part of larger groups alongside children from other schools. These performances have been at outside venues including: **Kesteven and Grantham Girls' School** and **The Priory Ruskin Academy.** These have given them valuable experience of performing to wider audiences and being part of a larger musical ensemble.

This programme ensures that children experience a range of performance contexts, including performing to their peers, parents, families, the wider school community and within church services. Through these regular opportunities, children develop confidence, musical independence and an understanding that performance is an important and enjoyable part of being a musician.

In the future

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

During **2025–26**, St Sebastian's Primary School strengthened the teaching and assessment of music through the introduction of **music vocabulary mats for each year group**. These are used throughout lessons to support children in understanding, recalling and applying key musical terminology, helping to develop a consistent musical language across the school. We also introduced **pupil self-assessment** linked to the four key skills identified for each unit. At the end of each unit, pupils are encouraged to reflect on their own progress and identify the skills they have developed, while teachers assess pupils against the same four key learning objectives. This approach provides a clearer picture of individual progress, supports pupils in taking greater ownership of their musical learning and helps teachers identify areas that may require further teaching, practice or development. The monitoring of this process will continue into the next academic year 2026-27. The Music Lead, alongside the Senior Leadership Team, will regularly reflect on the music monitoring, identify areas for development, and allocate further time to address them. The impact of these improvements will be monitored to support continuous improvement and adaptation.

Further Future Development Priorities

- **Young Voices:** Explore opportunities for pupils to participate in Young Voices, giving children the experience of performing alongside a large number of other young singers in a major concert venue.

- **Partnerships with local secondary schools:** Develop links with local secondary schools by inviting secondary pupils and musicians to perform for our pupils, lead workshops and share their musical skills. Explore opportunities for our pupils to visit secondary schools to experience music-making in a different setting.
- **Wider community performances:** Develop opportunities for the wider school community to attend and enjoy pupils' musical performances, including inviting parents, families and local community groups to school concerts and performances.
- **Community links:** Explore partnerships with local musicians, music groups and community organisations to provide pupils with opportunities to see and experience different types of live music.
- **Develop outdoor musical provision:** Further develop the school's outdoor musical instruments and resources, providing opportunities for children to explore rhythm, beat, pitch and sound independently during playtimes and curriculum activities.
- **Pupil leadership:** Develop opportunities for older pupils to lead musical activities with younger children, such as teaching songs, rhythms or simple percussion patterns.
- **Increasing live performance opportunities:** Continue to increase the number of opportunities for pupils to perform to different audiences and in different settings, building confidence, teamwork and a sense of pride in their musical achievements.

Further information

This is the link to Lincolnshire Music Service, our local music hub:

Welcome To Lincolnshire Music Service

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 to for support beyond the school.