

Music development plan summary: St Stephen's Tockholes



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Julie Moss/Mel Hilton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service
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.

At St Stephens Tockholes, we ensure that music and singing are 'a golden thread' interwoven throughout the whole school day. Music is a means of breaking down the barriers and exploring diversity, language, and cultural differences. As a Church Of England school, music is an imperative part of our worship; providing opportunity for praise and prayer whilst developing our unique sense of small community. Music is enjoyed by the children, parents, and staff together as we join as one family at every opportunity, with music performances at the heart of our celebrations. As a small and personal school, we aim to bring happiness, support positive wellbeing, and nurture children's talents by providing as many opportunities as possible to practice, perform, and express creativity. Music is an important part our curriculum for the diverse range

of children that we have at St Stephen's, and we aim to foster a sense of awe and wonder through spiritual and musical collaboration.

At our school we intend to allow our children to express themselves fully through the exploration of instruments, dedication and practice through tuition, and allowing creativity whilst composing and improvising. We provide our children with a broad and balanced curriculum in KS1 that teaches the inter-related dimensions of music through listening, composing, and performing. In KS2, we offer a progressive sequence of lessons built on previous knowledge and acquired skills using the expertise of our local music hub. All of our children will be able to listen and understand, create, and play music in a way that enhances their learning opportunities, both musically and across the curriculum. We aim for children to be exposed to a wide variety of music from different parts of the world; exploring culture, appreciating diversity, and understanding how music adds value to our lives both in the present and the past, in our small community and the wider world. Not only will our children explore a wide variety of musical genres, but will build upon their skills in small increments through tuition and small step learning, giving them the tools to play music from standard notation, create genre-specific pieces, and record them in appropriate ways.



At St Stephen's Tockholes, we have timetabled music lessons. In KS1 we use the PKC music scheme for our lessons which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music. When using the scheme and its progressive week-by-week lessons, we are guaranteeing to be meeting all the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and progress is evident through observations, class books and our progression documents. Discussions with children have demonstrated an increasing knowledge of key music vocabulary being recalled. Observations have shown all pupils engaged and active during the lessons, including SEND.

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.

At St Stephen's we also provide a weekly half-hour 'Prayer and Praise' session that brings the whole school together to learn and sing songs; praising God and being thankful for everything that we have. Our school values are embedded throughout our Prayer and Praise sessions, where community, hope, and love are present as the children learn complex worship songs, control their voices, and allow each person to shine individually. Music is embedded in our worship calendar, and the children prepare and perform songs as a whole school, in year groups, small groups, and as individuals; sharing love and happiness through song. We have a fantastic choir available to all KS2 children and are lucky enough to attend numerous local events where we collaborate with other schools and perform. We have been part of 'The Big Sing', a sponsored sing, sharing love, laughter, and our faith in God with local hospitals and nursing homes, and there is opportunity to be involved in putting on a musical in a multi-school, bi-annual end-of-year performance at our local theatre.



Our school choir also entertains us musical events which parents are invited to. This year it involved coming together with other local schools at St Silas Church and participating in a music festival. We were able to sing and perform with our ukuleles. We work toward performances where we can invite our parents in to share the skills and musicianship that we have learned when in our KS2 ukulele lessons. We want to ensure that secular music lessons are a non-negotiable each week, but that any cross-curricular opportunity to explore music is taken, and that music is shared often throughout the school day in classrooms, on the playground, and in worship times. This year we invited the Rock Steady Music School to come into school to help us to

learn about the different instruments that make up rock band. The children sang along and the teachers formed their own band.



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. At St Stephen's Tockholes we encourage parents and carers to join us in our weekly celebration worships which enable them to listen to our choir and join in with our whole school singing. Families are invited to a number of events held in our local church during the year, including a Harvest Festival, Nativity, Carol and Easter Service and our end of term Leavers Service.



During playtimes, our KS2 children come together to rehearse their own plays which included music and singing. This year they put on their show for the whole school at the end of the autumn and spring terms.

We held our first talent show in summer 2024 – the talents shared involved children from each key stage and included singing, dancing, cheering, telling jokes, singing nursery rhymes.



Music is played and enjoyed by children at least once a week in our breakfast club where they have opportunity to join in with Just Dance activities. During the week one of our after school clubs provides additional opportunities for playing instruments, singing and dancing.



In the future

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

In the subsequent years to come, we are planning to build on our music progress by regularly reviewing our curriculum. We are going to continue to develop children's composition skills and the notation of this. We will continue to develop a school choir and children's performance skills with more opportunities to perform throughout the year, with our local music hub and in the community. In academic year 2025/2026 a number of live lessons delivered by the Royal Ballet and Opera Schools have been booked to enable our children to have taster sessions of ballet, opera and stage design.