Music development plan summary: St Bartholomew's Primary School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026.27
Date this summary was published	1st September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	21st July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Tom King
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Daniel Meyer (Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Lewisham
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music

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 Bartholomew's Primary School, we believe that music is an essential part of a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. We are committed to providing every child with a high-quality music education that develops their creativity, confidence, musical knowledge and enjoyment of music, regardless of their background, ability or additional needs.

All children from Reception to Year 6 receive one hour of dedicated curriculum music teaching every week. Our school uses the Kapow Primary Music scheme, which provides a carefully sequenced and progressive curriculum, building children's musical knowledge, understanding and skills as they move through the school. The curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum for Music and reflects the principles of the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (2021).

Music is led by a skilled and knowledgeable subject leader, who provides effective strategic leadership and ensures consistently high standards of teaching and learning

across the school. The subject leader works closely with teachers to support curriculum planning, modelling effective practice and providing targeted professional development. Through ongoing guidance, coaching and opportunities to share expertise, the subject leader plays a key role in upskilling all staff, developing their subject knowledge and building their confidence to deliver engaging, high-quality music lessons. This approach supports the sustainability of our music provision and ensures that music teaching continues to develop across the school.

Through their music lessons, children develop skills in listening and appraising, singing, performing, composing and improvising. They explore a wide range of musical genres, traditions, cultures and historical periods, developing an appreciation of musical diversity. Children are encouraged to express themselves creatively, work collaboratively and use appropriate musical vocabulary to discuss and evaluate music.

Singing is an important part of our musical provision. Pupils have regular opportunities to sing both within curriculum lessons and through collective singing opportunities, including regular singing assemblies. These experiences develop children's vocal confidence, musical expression and sense of community, while fostering a shared enjoyment of music.

Through the use of instruments during music lessons, children develop their understanding of rhythm, pulse, pitch and musical notation through practical music-making, using their voices, body percussion and a range of classroom instruments. Opportunities to compose, rehearse and perform enable pupils to experience the enjoyment of making music individually and collaboratively as part of an ensemble.

We are committed to ensuring that disabled pupils and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can participate meaningfully in all aspects of curriculum music. Teaching is adapted to meet individual learning, communication, physical and sensory needs. This may include visual supports, simplified instructions, modelling, repetition, alternative methods of participation and additional adult support. Particular consideration is given to children with sensory sensitivities, ensuring that music-making remains an enjoyable and accessible experience for everyone.

We value our partnerships with external music education providers, including Lewisham Music Service, which help enrich our curriculum and extend the opportunities available to pupils. These partnerships complement the expertise of our own staff and provide additional opportunities for musical development.

Our curriculum is further enriched through opportunities to perform, celebrate music and participate in the wider life of the school and local community. Under the leadership of our music subject leader, we continue to evaluate and develop our provision, ensuring that all children benefit from an inclusive, engaging and ambitious music education.

Our aim is for every child to leave St Bartholomew's with the musical skills, confidence, creativity and enthusiasm to enjoy and participate in music throughout their lives.

Published Curriculum and SEND Information

Further information about our music curriculum, including year-group progression and curriculum expectations, is available through the school's website.

Music curriculum: St Bartholomew's overview

SEND and accessibility information: Overview of SEND information

Part B: 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.

At St Bartholomew's Primary School, we are committed to providing a rich and varied programme of musical opportunities beyond the taught curriculum. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to discover and develop their musical talents, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. Our extensive co-curricular provision enables children to explore different instruments, develop their musical skills, perform collaboratively and experience the enjoyment of making music with others.

Instrumental Tuition

The school works with a range of specialist peripatetic music teachers to offer instrumental tuition in woodwind, brass, guitar and piano. Children from Reception upwards can participate in paired piano lessons delivered through our partnership with Piano Fun Club, providing an accessible and enjoyable introduction to learning an instrument. As children progress through the school, they can access a wider range of instrumental tuition, delivered individually or in small groups according to their needs, interests and experience.

We recognise that the cost of instrumental tuition can be a barrier for some families and are committed to making these opportunities as inclusive as possible. Whilst some instrumental lessons are funded by parents and carers, the school also subsidises or fully funds tuition for children who might otherwise be unable to participate, including pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Through our partnership with Lewisham Music Service, children can also hire instruments at significantly reduced rates, helping

to remove financial barriers and enabling pupils to practise and develop their skills beyond school.

Singing and Choirs

Singing is a particularly important and valued part of school life. All children participate in regular communal singing through daily collective worship and dedicated singing assemblies. These opportunities develop vocal confidence, musical awareness and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

In addition, we employ a specialist choir teacher who visits the school every week to lead two dedicated choirs for children in lower and upper Key Stage 2. Children have the opportunity to audition for the choirs each term, providing regular opportunities for new members to participate. The choirs work on a varied repertoire of songs, developing vocal technique, harmony, musical expression and performance skills. Rehearsals build towards key performances throughout the school year, providing children with opportunities to celebrate their achievements and share their musical talents with the wider school community.

Rocksteady Music and Band Opportunities

Our partnership with Rocksteady Music School provides an exciting and inclusive opportunity for children from Reception to Year 6 to experience playing in a band. Weekly sessions enable pupils to learn electric instruments and develop their musical skills through collaborative, practical music-making.

Working in small groups, children experience the different roles within a band, developing their understanding of rhythm, timing, performance and teamwork. This approach is particularly effective in engaging children who enjoy contemporary music and provides an alternative pathway into instrumental learning. The emphasis on collaboration, creativity and enjoyment helps children develop confidence, resilience and positive relationships alongside their musical abilities.

Progression and Wider Musical Opportunities

We are committed to ensuring that children can continue to develop their musical interests and abilities beyond their initial experiences in school. Our instrumental tuition, choir provision and Rocksteady sessions provide opportunities for sustained participation, allowing children to build their skills, confidence and musical understanding over time.

The school actively encourages and signposts pupils and families towards wider musical opportunities within the local community. Our relationship with Lewisham Music Service enables us to promote additional instrumental tuition, ensembles and other music-making opportunities beyond the school day. We also encourage children to

explore other high-quality musical experiences, including opportunities to become choristers at Southwark Cathedral.

These partnerships help children access more advanced musical experiences, develop their talents and explore opportunities for continued musical progression. Where appropriate, families are supported in identifying further tuition, performance opportunities and potential pathways towards formal musical qualifications.

Accessibility, Inclusion and Financial Support

Ensuring equality of opportunity remains central to our co-curricular music provision. We recognise the significant benefits of musical participation for children's confidence, wellbeing, communication and personal development, and are determined that financial disadvantage or additional learning needs should not prevent pupils from accessing these opportunities.

The school works with families and external providers to identify appropriate musical opportunities for individual children, including those with SEND. We actively promote participation and seek to remove barriers through financial assistance, access to subsidised instrument hire and individualised support where necessary.

Some instrumental and band tuition carries a charge to families, but the school is committed to ensuring that financial circumstances do not unnecessarily restrict participation. Subsidised or fully funded places are made available where appropriate, particularly for children eligible for Pupil Premium funding. Parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school to discuss the support available.

Our Commitment

Through a combination of specialist tuition, established partnerships, regular ensemble opportunities and inclusive financial support, we aim to ensure that every child can experience the enjoyment and benefits of music-making beyond the classroom.

Our aspiration is not simply to introduce children to music, but to nurture a lasting enthusiasm for musical participation and provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop their interests, celebrate their achievements and continue their musical journeys beyond St Bartholomew’s.

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.

At St Bartholomew’s Primary School, music is an integral part of school life and we are proud of the rich variety of musical experiences available to our children. We believe that opportunities to perform, listen to live music and celebrate musical achievements are essential to developing children's confidence, creativity and enjoyment of music. Throughout the academic year, we provide a wide range of inclusive musical experiences, from informal performances in assemblies to large-scale concerts and community events.

All of the musical experiences and performance opportunities outlined in this section are provided free of charge to participating children and their families. We are committed to ensuring that financial circumstances never prevent a child from enjoying these valuable experiences.

Regular Musical Experiences and Performances

Music plays a prominent role in our daily school life. All children participate in regular singing through collective worship and dedicated singing assemblies, developing their vocal skills and experiencing the enjoyment of singing together.

We actively encourage children to share their musical talents through regular informal performances during assemblies. Pupils learning instruments are invited to perform as children enter and leave collective worship, providing valuable performance experience in a supportive environment. These opportunities also enable the wider school community to appreciate different instruments and musical styles while celebrating the achievements of individual pupils.

The school also hosts regular open mic music events, providing an inclusive and welcoming platform for children to share music of their choosing with an appreciative audience. Whether singing, playing an instrument or performing collaboratively, these events celebrate musical enthusiasm and encourage children of different abilities and experience levels to participate.

We regularly welcome visiting musicians and performers into school, including parents and carers who are professional musicians or enthusiastic amateur players. These experiences expose children to a diverse range of instruments, musical genres and performance styles, while demonstrating that music can be a rewarding and enjoyable part of life beyond school.

St Bart's Big Gig

A highlight of our musical calendar is the annual St Bart's Big Gig, organised and led by our dedicated Music Subject Leader. This much-anticipated event provides children with an opportunity to showcase their musical talents through solo performances, duets and group or band performances.

Children are encouraged to put themselves forward, celebrating musical creativity and providing a platform for a diverse range of talents and interests. Following an initial selection process, finalists work closely with the Music Lead to refine and develop their chosen performance pieces, receiving expert guidance, encouragement and support.

The event culminates in an exciting live gig attended by the wider school community, with a judging panel celebrating the children's achievements. Beyond the enjoyment of performing, the Big Gig develops confidence, perseverance, collaboration and performance skills, while inspiring other children to explore their own musical interests.

Rocksteady Band Performances

Our partnership with Rocksteady Music School provides children from Reception to Year 6 with opportunities to experience performing as part of a band. Alongside their weekly instrumental sessions, participating children take part in termly live performances attended by parents, carers and other children.

These concerts allow pupils to showcase their developing skills, celebrate their progress and experience the excitement of performing together. Importantly, children also have the opportunity to listen to the other bands, exposing them to different instruments, musical styles and levels of performance. These events help foster a supportive musical community within the school.

Choirs and External Musical Events

Our lower and upper Key Stage 2 choirs, led by a specialist vocal teacher, perform regularly throughout the academic year. The children work towards concerts and performances both within school and at external venues, developing their vocal technique, confidence and ability to perform as part of an ensemble.

We are particularly proud of our participation in prestigious wider musical events. These have included performances as part of the Thames Festival, with children singing on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral, providing a memorable opportunity to perform in an iconic London setting.

The school also participates in Lewisham Music Service's Turning of the Year concert at Blackheath Halls. This event enables children to perform their own musical piece as a school and join with choirs from other schools in large-scale collaborative performances. Children also benefit from listening to performances by pupils from other schools, including older and more experienced musicians. These experiences broaden their musical horizons, raise aspirations and demonstrate the opportunities available as they continue their musical development.

Our partnership with Lewisham Music Service plays an important role in facilitating access to these experiences, helping children participate in musical events beyond their immediate school community.

Seasonal Concerts, Productions and Celebrations

Musical performances are an important feature of our school calendar, particularly during seasonal celebrations and significant school events.

All year groups participate in Christmas concerts and performances, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to experience performing for an audience. Our youngest children in the Early Years Foundation Stage take part in a traditional Nativity performance, introducing them to the excitement of singing and performing together while developing confidence and communication skills.

Our Year 6 pupils take part in an ambitious end-of-primary-school production, which is usually a musical. Supported by an external drama specialist and our specialist vocal teacher, children develop their singing, acting and performance skills as they work collaboratively towards a major production. This provides a memorable culmination of their primary school experience and celebrates their creativity, teamwork and personal development.

The school also benefits from its close relationship with St Bartholomew's Church, with children regularly participating in singing and musical celebrations within the church. These opportunities strengthen our links with the local community and provide children with experience of performing in a different and distinctive setting.

Music in the Wider Community

We believe that music provides an important opportunity for children to connect with and contribute positively to their local community. Alongside our performances at church and participation in borough-wide musical events, pupils also visit a local care home to sing with and for residents.

These visits are particularly valuable in developing children's confidence, empathy and understanding of the positive impact that music can have on others. By sharing familiar songs and enjoying music together, children experience the power of music to connect different generations, promote wellbeing and bring joy to others.

We continue to seek opportunities to develop these community partnerships, ensuring that music remains a meaningful way for our children to contribute to the wider world.

Inclusion, Accessibility and Financial Support

We are committed to ensuring that musical experiences are accessible to all pupils, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and those

facing financial disadvantage. We recognise that performing in front of others can be challenging for some children and provide a range of opportunities, from small, informal performances to larger concerts, allowing pupils to participate in ways that reflect their individual needs, interests and confidence.

Every child has opportunities to participate in whole-school and year-group musical events, while additional experiences such as choirs, instrumental performances and the Big Gig provide further pathways for children wishing to develop their musical interests.

There is no charge for children to participate in any of the performances (other than if they pay for their Rocksteady sessions), concerts, productions or musical experiences described in this section. This includes school-based events, choir performances, community singing opportunities and participation in external musical events. By ensuring that these opportunities are free, we remove financial barriers and enable children from all backgrounds, including those eligible for Pupil Premium funding, to participate fully in the musical life of the school.

Our Commitment

Through a varied programme of concerts, productions, performances and community events, we aim to ensure that music is a visible, valued and celebrated part of life at St Bartholomew's Primary School.

Our strong partnerships with specialist music teachers, Rocksteady Music School, Lewisham Music Service, St Bartholomew's Church and local community organisations help us provide musical experiences that extend well beyond the classroom.

Above all, we want every child to experience the joy of making music, the excitement of performing, and the inspiration that comes from listening to others. Whether performing on a major stage, singing alongside other schools, sharing a song with care home residents or playing an instrument for their classmates, we believe that every child should have the opportunity to experience the transformative power of music.

In the future

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

At St Bartholomew's Primary School, we are proud of our established music provision and remain committed to its continued development. We will maintain our commitment to one hour of curriculum music each week, while continuing to strengthen staff confidence and expertise through the support of our skilled Music Subject Leader. We will build upon our successful partnerships with Lewisham Music Service, Rocksteady

and other specialist providers, seeking further opportunities for instrumental learning, ensemble participation and musical performance. Ensuring that all children, including those with SEND or facing financial disadvantage, can access high-quality musical experiences will remain central to our approach.

A key priority for the 2026–27 academic year and beyond is to expand our musical outreach and strengthen relationships with the wider community. We aim to develop more regular partnerships with local nurseries, early years settings and care homes, creating opportunities for children to sing, perform and share their musical talents across generations. Building on our existing community performances, we hope to establish a sustainable programme of musical visits and collaborative events that promote wellbeing, develop children's confidence and leadership skills, and celebrate the power of music to bring people together.

We are also keen to strengthen curriculum and musical links with local secondary schools, exploring opportunities for collaborative concerts, workshops, shared performances and joint musical projects. We aim to begin developing these partnerships during 2026–27, with further collaborative activities from 2027–28 onwards. Working alongside secondary music specialists and older pupils will help strengthen curriculum continuity, support transition and raise children's musical aspirations. Through these developments, alongside established events such as St Bart's Big Gig and our regular concerts, we aim to ensure that music remains a vibrant, inclusive and celebrated part of school life, inspiring children to continue their musical journeys beyond St Bartholomew’s.

Further information

At St Bartholomew’s Primary School, we are committed to working closely with families, specialist music teachers and local music organisations to ensure that children can access a wide range of musical opportunities both within and beyond school. Our principal local partner is Lewisham Music, which forms part of the South East London Music Hub. This partnership supports instrumental tuition, access to affordable instrument hire, ensemble participation and opportunities for musical progression. Families are encouraged to explore Lewisham Music's wider offer, including its Saturday Music Centre, choirs, orchestras and other activities for young musicians.

We also value our partnerships with Rocksteady Music School, Piano Fun Club and Southwark Cathedral, which provide additional opportunities for children to develop their musical interests and talents. Further information about music education

opportunities and progression pathways can be found through the following organisations:

- **Lewisham Music:** https://lewishammusic.org/
- **South East London Music Hub:** https://lewishammusic.org/about-us/selmh/
- **Lewisham Music Saturday Music Centre:** https://lewishammusic.org/taking-part/saturday-music-centre/
- **Rocksteady Music School:** https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/
- **Piano Fun Club:** https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/
- **Southwark Cathedral Junior Choir:** https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/worship-and-music/music/the-choir/junior-choir/
- **Department for Education – Music Education: Information for Parents and Young People:** https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people

Families wishing to find out more about music tuition, choir membership, instrumental opportunities or financial support are encouraged to contact the school office, which can direct enquiries to our Music Subject Leader. We are always keen to hear from families and members of the wider community who may be able to contribute to our musical provision or support future musical projects.

School contact: info@st-bartholomews.lewisham.sch.uk

School website: https://www.st-bartholomews.lewisham.sch.uk/