South Farnham School
The Continual Pursuit of Excellence
Member of the South Farnham Educational Trust

Music Development Plan summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Nicki Larkins and Lauren Taylor
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jessica Abdul-Salam
Name of local music hub	Surrey Arts

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.

Our broad and balanced curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum and research outline in 'The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education'.

Children at South Farnham receive one hour dedicated music lesson per week, in our music studio. The progression of skills and knowledge overview clearly outlines how the children will engage with the inter-related dimension of music: texture, structure, timbre, tempo, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, pulse, and our spiral curriculum enables the children to have comprehensive music vocabulary by the time they finish their primary music education. The document also maps the key knowledge and skills to be taught within each year group to enable them to progress to this level.

We break our curriculum into 5 key aspects of music, which are commonly recognised vehicles for developing children's musical understanding in a holistic and interconnected way. These are: listening and appraising, singing, playing, improvising,

composing. In our curriculum, these activities serve as the structure for every lesson – enabling children to practise in small steps and acquire knowledge and skills carefully over time.

We follow the Charanga Music School scheme to meet the expectations of the Model Music Curriculum and exceed the National Curriculum. The scheme allows children to practise each of the strands of music within each lesson and has a clear progression of skills within each unit. The planning includes clear differentiated tasks with both additional support and extension tasks (such as the use of sheet music and a variety of complexity in the melodies and rhythms). By following a scheme, we can ensure consistency between classes and parity across year groups.

In response to the 2011 review of music, we introduced Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) into our curriculum. Each year group at South Farnham participates in WCET, introducing them to or deepening their skills in a specific instrument. These are a key part of the school's curricular music offer and not a bolt-on activity - as advised by the 2022 national plan for music education.

Each year group also studies a specialist History of Music Unit, giving children an opportunity to acquire a deep understanding of a particular aspect of music history. This includes explicit teaching of various music theory concepts (e.g. recording notation), which can be applied within practical teaching units. The History of Music Unit also emphasises the importance of music history and understanding the rich cultural heritage of music.

Our curriculum also features a half term Ensemble Singing Performance Unit, which contextualises their learning and enables children to experience the wonder and joy of live performance. The children also develop stamina to sing and dance simultaneously and the unit leads up to every child performing in our Christmas production.

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.

Music is an integral part of life at South Farnham School and children are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities. Our aim is to increase self-confidence, creativity and a sense of achievement, which we understand cannot just be contained to a single music lesson once a week. We offer a variety of different clubs and experiences throughout the year and our ethos ensures inclusivity into our choirs, which we offer for free.

Experienced musicians can collaborate in our Rock Band Club, where children build a repertoire of songs, they can compare and explore, within a certain genre.

We offer a South Farnham School Choir, open to any child to join, with multiple performance opportunities throughout the year, covering a variety of genres and venues.

Our O2 Young Voices Choir is an extremely popular offering to Upper Key Stage 2 cohort, with more technical singing rehearsals and a range of different genres. The children will also learn dance moves to accompany their singing and must perform an entire concert from memory, whilst following a conductor and a live band.

The Primary Music Festival Choir gives all our Key Stage 2 children the opportunity to learn songs, which they will perform – from memory – to a live audience. On a much smaller scale than O2, this is a fantastic foundation for children hoping to attend an event on a larger scale.

We select a group of children, across KS2, to perform at the SCITT graduation. Supporting the SCITT team with giving the best send off to their new cohort of qualified teachers, the children experience a formal and incredibly prestigious event. They are given the privilege of performing during such a momentous time in these teachers lives, showing that music brings people together to celebrate.

Our 2024-2025 academic year sees the inaugural Ukulele club, giving children the chance to learn an instrument – in a group setting – with new songs. Led by an experienced guitarist and Ukulele player, the children will learn key ensemble skills, with the chance for performance to a live audience.

For our Summer production, we run a non-auditioned, open-to-all choir. These children are an integral part of the production, forming a part of the ensemble. They are expected to learn the score, including their cues and follow a conductor to help move the storytelling forward through their singing.

Following a successful introduction of the Arts Award: Explore, we offer our children the opportunity to follow the criteria for the award. The children were given insight from the professionals in the industry and had the incredible opportunity to explore a working theatre, including a tour of the stage and backstage and followed by watching a live performance. All organised workshops and experiences led to a final performance, where the children had the opportunity to explore their chosen medium (within performing arts), create and rehearse a performance, which they shared with friends and family.

Our curriculum team regularly meet to assess the success of the clubs running at the school and will choose our termly offerings based on the need of the children. Our offering is constantly changing and growing and will be adapted throughout the year.

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.

On top of the timetabled music lesson, the children attend a 20 minute singing assembly each week; they are taught a new song during the assembly and then sing it throughout the week at all other assemblies they attend, with a final whole-site (Infant or Junior) performance during the whole-school assembly time.

The Spring Prom is an annual opportunity to celebrate children's achievements in performing arts – both inside and outside of school. The Spring Prom is a diverse showcase of talent and independent dedication to the Arts, featuring children from across both sites. The children experience real-world experience of rehearsing and auditioning their pieces in front of a panel of teachers. They are offered feedback and every child is given the opportunity to perform, either in the Spring Prom or the Spring Prom Variety.

Every child will participate in at least one class assembly every year. Their class teachers will write a script, often in collaboration with the children, and will then direct a 15 minute play, showcased to the whole school. Often the assemblies will showcase the talents of the children and will highlight their musical abilities, either through singing or playing their instruments live during the assembly. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop their public speaking and performing skills, by bringing an aspect of the curriculum to life.

Every year we take a group of children to Farnham's Got Talent. The children are offered the opportunity to create a piece, especially for the event, and will perform to the panel.

There are copious opportunities for children to experience Music and Performing Arts outside of the classroom. All children enjoy at least one external workshop per year, these include, but are not limited to:

Year R: Perform Workshop, World Drumming, Pied Piper Theatre Company

Year 1: Perform Workshop, World Drumming, Pied Piper Theatre Company

Year 2: Perform Workshop, World Drumming, Pied Piper Theatre Company

Year 3: Bhangra Dance Workshop

Year 4: Samba Workshop & Trip to GLive

Year 5: Gamelan Workshop

Year 6: Caribbean Drumming Workshop

The Yehudi Menuhin Music School is a place for musically gifted children from around the world and each year they offer complimentary tickets to attend their Winter Concert. We take a group of children to this fun and interactive event. This year they are showcasing a re-telling of the Charles Dickens' beloved classic 'A Christmas Carol'.

Throughout their time at South Farnham, children are frequently given opportunities to work with, and perform to, the local community – reflecting our commitment to broadening children's experiences beyond the school. This community engagement is also a reflection of the value that South Farnham places on enriching and support our wider community.

- At Christmas, we bring together a group of children to perform Christmas Carols to local care homes near us. The children can experience the joy music brings and how community spirit is an integral part of music.
- We attend the Farnham Carnival, entering a float and creating a performance to display during the event. This gives children a chance to perform as a whole school, across both sites, allowing KS2 children to step into the role of mentor, supporting and encouraging children from the infant site through the performance; offering insight, which they have gained through their own experience.
- The children spread the Christmas joy at the Farnham Light switch on, performing on the stage to a crowd of people. They learn the songs voluntary in the South Farnham School Choir rehearsals and can showcase what they've learnt to their friends and family. This large-scale event happening so early on in the school year, gives the children a foresight into their year ahead and allows them to embed some of their key curriculum learning into a live performance.
- We recognise special events throughout the school year through Music and Performing Arts. These are showcased through Special Assemblies, where each year group contributes an aspect of the performance, whether through song, dance, poetry or acting, every child will participate. We host these for: Harvest, Remembrance, Nativity, Easter and Year 6 leavers assembly.
- We support our local secondary school by attending the dress rehearsal for the summer production.

In the future

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

The Music Curriculum team are continually looking for ways to exceed and our action plans are bold and ambitious.

We currently uphold and value the strengths we have within the 7 key features of enriched curriculum and have created an action plan that is reflect of this.

Our targets for 2026-2027 are to:

- Review WCET and History of Music units to diversity artists.
- To continue to implement a dynamic CPD programme.
- To implement new assessment procedures within Music to ensure judgements of the highest accuracy.
- To contribute to CPD across Surrey as facilitators.
- To continue developing our own bespoke music curriculum

We will continue to keep up-to-date with any research or responses to the national plan for music education and the model music curriculum and implement within our curriculum as necessary.