

Music development plan summary: St Margaret's Academy, Torquay.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	December 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	December 2026
Name of the school music lead	Gemma Posey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Torbay/Devon
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock steady Blossom's Music

Part A: Curriculum music

Information about the music curriculum is on the school website: [St Margaret's Academy - Music](#)

EYFS

In EYFS we teach music as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area: Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the Foundation Stage Framework (2014).

We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. 'Counting Songs' foster a child's mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. EYFS **follow** units taken from the BBC music website.

KS1 and KS2

In KS1 and KS2 Music is taught as a discrete lesson, lasting 45-60mins. At St Margaret's Academy we use a combination of the Sing up and Charanga schemes. These schemes fulfil the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum 2014.

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- ♣ Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- ♣ Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- ♣ Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Children at St Margaret's have the opportunity to learn an abundance of instruments from Y1 - Y6.

We are informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021)

- The DfE's Model Music Curriculum 2021 states that: 'In Years 3 or 4, it is recommended that each class should start a whole-class instrumental programme lasting a minimum of one term. Opportunities for this are shown below:

In Reception our children experiment with a variety of percussion instruments.

In Year 1 they are taught how to play the **Boomwhackers**.

In Year 2 they are taught to play the **Ukulele** by a specialist teacher for a whole term.

In Year 3 they continue to learn the **Ukulele** (by the same specialist teacher) for another term.

In Year 4 they are taught to play the **Recorder**.

In Year 5 they are taught to play the **Fife** by a specialist teacher for a term.

In Year 6 they are taught to play the **Guitar** for a term by a specialist teacher.

Our intention is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. Each class teacher uses the scheme and adapts it to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school.

We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

Cyclical: Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge again and again during their time in primary school.

Increasing depth: Each time a skill or area of knowledge is revisited, it is covered with greater depth.

Prior knowledge: Upon returning to a skill, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

- Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.
- Pupils are taught musical notation and how to compose music.
- Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.
- As children progress through the school, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music.
- Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions.
- We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch.
- We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds.
- Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At St Margaret's we have a variety of peripatetic teachers and organisations to help our children to pursue any musical interests.

Please follow the link to our website to see what is on offer: [St Margaret's Academy - Music](#)

Most of these are paid by parents/carers but we also offer some subsidised/free Pupil Premium and SEN music group lessons.

We are partnered with our local music hub: Devon and Torbay Music Hub

In EYFS and Year 1 the children have access to a variety of instruments throughout the 'Continuous Provision' (Busy time).

Instruments are also available in the 'Art's Garden' at break and lunch times.

Part C: Musical experiences

Each week we have assemblies that are linked to music where the children learn new songs. These songs are often linked to current topics.

The children are also exposed to a variety of 'live music' performances in school.

Each month the children listen to songs linked to our 'Composer of the Month'.

Musical events

Key Stage 1 perform their nativity (including songs) at a local theatre.

Key Stage 2 perform a Christmas Carol Concert at a local church.

Year 6 perform a 'Leaver's Play' each Summer term which includes music.

Rock Steady Bands perform to parents and the rest of the school at the end of every term.

Peripatetic groups (such as Ukulele groups) perform to Key Stage 1 at various times of the year.

Year 1 children perform the Boomwhackers to their parents/carers each year.

In the future

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

Our plan for the forthcoming year is to bring more music into our break and lunch times. Giving children a place and time to practise and improve skills, that have been previously taught in the classroom. Giving them freedom to play and enjoy music.

Further information (optional)

Our local music hub has information on events and further information on learning an instrument:

[Home - Devon Music Education Hub](#)