

Music Development Plan Summary

Canon Johnson C of E Primary School

Part of Forward As One CE MAT

Academic Year 2026–2027

This summary explains how our school delivers music education through curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences, together with the priorities we are developing during the 2026–2027 academic year.

At a glance

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	John Harrison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	–
Name of local music hub / music service	Tameside Music Service
Other music education organisation(s)	–

This document follows the structure of the Department for Education's Music Development Plan summary template.

Our music education offer

At Canon Johnson C of E Primary School, we aim to provide a broad, balanced and inclusive music education for every pupil. Music is taught as a subject in its own right and is enriched through singing, worship, performance, instrumental opportunities and live musical experiences.

Our curriculum is aligned with the statutory National Curriculum for Music at Key Stages 1 and 2 and is informed by the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (2021). Pupils develop as musicians through regular opportunities to perform, listen and respond, compose, improvise, sing and play instruments. Learning is planned progressively so that pupils build secure musical knowledge and skills over time.

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is taught weekly across the school. Curriculum planning is led by the school and is supported by Tameside Music Service. Teachers use the school's progressive curriculum planning and resources, alongside guidance and musical expertise from Tameside Music Service.

The curriculum provides regular opportunities for pupils to sing, play tuned and untuned instruments, compose and improvise, listen and respond, and perform both individually and as part of an ensemble. Pupils develop increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression, alongside an understanding of musical vocabulary, notation and the history and context of music.

Curriculum progression and musical knowledge

Across Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils progressively develop their understanding and application of the interrelated dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure, together with appropriate musical notation. Pulse and rhythm are developed as important practical foundations for secure musicianship.

Pupils encounter music from a wide range of historical periods, genres, styles, cultures and traditions. Listening is used deliberately to develop aural memory, musical vocabulary and the ability to describe, compare and evaluate music.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In EYFS, music is embedded within holistic early development and continuous provision. Children have frequent opportunities to explore sound, sing, move and dance, listen, respond and play. Musical experiences are supported through vocal play, rhymes, songs, movement and exploration of instruments and everyday sounds. These experiences establish foundations for the more structured musical learning of Key Stage 1.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 lesson approach

Lessons are a minimum of 35 minutes and are taught by class teachers and/or music specialists. Lessons commonly include physical and vocal warm-ups, focused listening, singing, instrumental work and a practical musical outcome through composing, improvising or performing. Activities are adapted so that all pupils can participate and make progress.

Pupils are taught to use their voices expressively, play tuned and untuned instruments musically, listen with concentration and understanding, and create and combine sounds. In Key Stage 2, pupils develop greater control and independence in solo and ensemble performance, composition, improvisation, notation and aural recall.

Wider musical learning through worship

Weekly worship provides an additional opportunity for singing and musical listening. Music is selected with attention to historical, geographical and cultural connections and to the diversity of our school community. Pupils encounter music from a range of traditions and backgrounds, supporting musical appreciation and the wider curriculum.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We provide opportunities for pupils to develop their musical interests beyond the core curriculum. These opportunities are designed to complement classroom learning and encourage pupils to continue developing their musical skills.

- Individual and small-group instrumental lessons are offered in Key Stage 2 through Tameside Music Service. Peripatetic teachers visit school and teach pupils in a dedicated space.
- We work closely with Tameside Music Service so that instrumental opportunities respond to pupils' interests and talents, and so that pupils have opportunities to perform.

- Our school choir is open to pupils from Year 1 to Year 6. Choir rehearses weekly and provides regular opportunities for pupils to sing together and perform to an audience.
- Through the Forward As One CE MAT Primary Pledge, pupils have opportunities to access experiences that enrich and extend their curriculum learning. At Canon Johnson, this includes live musical performance opportunities for pupils.

Part C: Musical experiences and events

Throughout 2026–2027, pupils will have opportunities to perform and to experience high-quality live and recorded music.

- All children from Nursery to Year 6 take part in a Christmas Learning Showcase. Children perform a Christmas classic and a modern piece, with repertoire selected to support musical progression.
- All children from Nursery to Year 5 take part in a Summer Learning Showcase, performing songs that enrich and celebrate curriculum learning.
- Year 6 pupils perform an end-of-year show in Summer 2. The show is themed and pupils are given increasing responsibility for curation, organisation and rehearsal.
- Singing is a key feature of Forward As One CE MAT Trust Worship. These are held termly, with schools, governors and parents/carers invited to attend.
- The choir performs at the end of each half-term in whole-school Celebration Assembly, giving pupils regular opportunities to perform to a wider audience and celebrate musical progress.
- The music lead will explore opportunities for the choir to participate in Young Voices in Manchester, subject to arrangements, suitability and availability.
- Tameside Music Service provides an annual in-school performance/showcase to introduce pupils to instruments and to promote opportunities for instrumental learning.

Development priorities for 2026–2027

Our priorities for the year are focused on strengthening progression, participation and opportunities for pupils to develop as confident musicians.

- Continue to develop a broad, progressive music curriculum that clearly maps singing, listening, performing, composing, improvising, instrumental skills and musical vocabulary across EYFS, KS1 and KS2.
- Work closely with Tameside Music Service to strengthen curriculum support, instrumental provision and opportunities for pupils to perform.
- Increase the range of instruments available through small-group and individual tuition where staffing, demand and resources allow.
- Further enhance performance opportunities for instrumentalists and singers throughout the school year.
- Broaden extra-curricular music opportunities, including singing and instrumental activities for a wider range of year groups.
- Continue to develop staff confidence in using iPads, recording and other appropriate music technology to support composing, performing, listening and assessment.
- Use regular monitoring and pupil voice to review participation, progression and the impact of music provision, with the music lead reporting developments to school leadership.

Curriculum and quality assurance

The music lead will monitor curriculum coverage, progression and pupil participation throughout the year. Planning and provision will be reviewed against the statutory National Curriculum for Music and the school's intended progression in musical knowledge and skills. Feedback from staff, pupils and Tameside Music Service will be used to inform future development.

Further information

The Department for Education provides national guidance on music education, including the statutory National Curriculum for Music, the Model Music Curriculum and the School Music Development Plan summary template.

- National Curriculum in England: Music programmes of study (Department for Education).
- Teaching music in schools: Model Music Curriculum (Department for Education, 2021).
- School music development plan: summary template (Department for Education, 2024).

This summary will be reviewed in July 2027 and updated for the following academic year.