

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	Laura Rennolds
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Dorset 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.

At St Mary the Virgin Primary School, we aim for all our pupils to develop a life-long love of music, in a school with singing and music as a strength through a wide range of quality musical experiences which engage and inspire them. At the heart of the music curriculum are creativity, curiosity and excitement and children who are developing increased self-confidence, self-esteem and collaborative skills. We aim to build a musical curriculum with a progressive pathway for every child. Music opportunities will support children's mental health and allow them time to express their emotions. Children will perform, listen and analyse critically, sing, improvise and compose music and understand the musical elements as building blocks within music.

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 SMTV, we follow the Charanga Music scheme supported by the Dorset Music Service. [Home – Dorset Music Service \(dorsetmusiconline.co.uk\)](http://dorsetmusiconline.co.uk)
- Charanga's Scheme is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music.
- This Scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with 'I Can' statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids.
- The scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.
- The scheme is suitable for children aged 5–11, with a choice of six self-sufficient units per year. Each unit is structured into six steps. The first step of each unit introduces that unit's focus in terms of content, skills and knowledge; the middle steps then develop this, and the final, sixth step assesses the learning through exciting performances and activities.
- At the centre of each step – each lesson – is a song around which the musical learning is centred. Each lesson has an easy-to-follow structure complemented by an array of supporting documents, lesson plans and resources that take you through listening, singing, performing, composing and improvising exercises with the children in your class.
- Children have the opportunities to sing and play instruments in their music lessons. This is planned in systematically throughout the Charanga scheme.
- In the Nursery the children have access to instruments as part of their continuous provision. Daily opportunities for singing are planned for. Instruments and body percussion in phonics lessons.

- In Reception music is delivered through holistic practice as an integral part of early development and that musical development matters. The Charanga scheme is followed to help the children reach the Early Learning Goals. Invitations to engage with sound are planned for and singing is incorporated into the children's provision.
- KS1 music turns musical play into playing musically. Pupils in KS1 are taught by class teachers so aspects of learning can be revisited throughout the week. Planning is written by the music specialist and class teachers are supported with coaching throughout each unit. This forms part of the monitoring process.
- KS2 music continues to build learning in small, incremental steps. Pupils develop their playing with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. Listening develops aural memory and children develop an understanding of the history of music by using the learning timeline to place and sequence pieces, spotting links between them and seeing the history of music develop.

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.

Our pupils can take part in private lessons with peripatetic music teachers. This is arranged by and paid for by parents and carers. The children can learn to play the guitar, piano, violin, flute, trumpet, cornet, trombone, tenor horn, clarinet and alto saxophone. Children can also work towards preparing for their musical examinations. The visiting music specialists provide excellent tuition for music theory and performance.

We have a wide variety of clubs that children can take part in to widen their musical skills and knowledge such as choir and Samba drumming. These clubs

take place outside of curriculum hours. It is free to join our clubs (led by school staff) and children are encouraged to sign up each term to try something new.

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 SMTV, we plan our musical opportunities in advance, and they can be found on our yearly parent calendar. We place huge importance on the significant role music and the arts has on young people and provide our children many opportunities throughout the year.

The children have the opportunity to sing and perform in:

- Collective Worship
- Sing Up
- Church services
- Music lessons
- Visiting theatre company (pantomime)
- Choir
- Christmas carol concert
- Nativity play
- Harvest events
- Easter events
- End of Year/Y6 leavers service
- Spring Music Concert
- Local events e.g D Day celebrations
- School fayre
- Residential home
- Samba performance to parents

Children in Y4 undertake a programme of Samba tuition from their class teacher, culminating in a performance to parents. There is no cost to families for their child's participation.

In the future

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

In the next academic year, we plan to continue to give children experiences to high quality music lessons as part of the curriculum. We aim to give children the opportunities to engage in peripatetic music lessons and extra-curricular choral and music clubs.

Teachers and support staff are planning opportunities for the children to play a variety of instruments, to have the opportunities to perform a variety of hymns in Worship Through Song. Continue to signpost external family events to support parents with musical learning.

Leaders are working to provide opportunities to forge links with the local community by singing and playing to the local community.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Useful links:

Dorset Music Service: [Dorset Music Service - Dorset Council](#)

Sing up: [Sing Up - Love learning, start singing](#)