

Music development plan summary: John Scurr Primary School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	3 rd February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rebecca O'Brien
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service (THAMES)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Front Row Music Spitalfields 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 John Scurr Primary, we believe in providing a rich and inspiring music education for all our pupils, starting from Nursery right through to Year 6. Music is a key part of our CUSP curriculum, and we work closely with Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service THAMES to bring in talented music professionals who help make each lesson both exciting and meaningful.

Curriculum Overview:

- **Reception to Year 6:** Every child enjoys a 1-hour instrumental music lesson each week, plus a 30-minute singing assembly.
- **Nursery & 2-Year-Old Provision:** Music is integrated into the daily routine through continuous provision, led by our Early Years professionals.
- **Year 2:** In addition to regular music lessons, Year 2 pupils have a 30-minute weekly djembe lesson. These sessions build towards two school-wide performances each year, giving pupils a chance to showcase their learning.
- **Year 4:** Pupils in Year 4 take part in extra singing rehearsals and perform in a borough-wide singing event each Autumn term, in collaboration with Spitalfields Music.

Whole-School Performances:

- We are proud to host two school-wide performances every year: ***Music and Mince Pies*** in the Autumn term, and ***Summer Sounds*** in the Summer term. These events are a wonderful opportunity for pupils to perform for family and friends and celebrate their musical progress.

Through music, we aim to inspire creativity, build confidence, and offer all our pupils the chance to experience the joy of making music together. Please see below what each pupil is learning every halfterm.

Year	Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D	Block E	Block F
1 Tuned and untuned percussion	Singing	Untuned percussion	Singing	Untuned percussion	Singing	Tuned percussion
	Singing focus: Being together in music	Untuned focus: Introducing rhythm and pulse	Singing focus: Introducing pitch	Untuned focus: Introducing tempo and dynamics	Singing focus: Exploring emotions through music	Tuned focus: Experimenting with sounds (duration)
	Control the voice – nursery rhymes	Representing sounds pictorially	Identify changes in sounds (high / low)	Identify changes in sounds (fast / slow, loud / soft)	Responding to music	Representing sounds pictorially

2 Tuned and untuned percussion	Untuned percussion	Singing	Untuned percussion	Singing	Tuned percussion	Singing
	Untuned focus: Experimenting with sounds 2	Singing focus: Being together in music 2	Untuned focus: Introducing rhythm and pulse 2	Singing focus: Introducing pitch 2	Tuned focus: Introducing tempo and dynamics 2	Singing focus: Exploring emotions through music 2
	Exploring ostinato	Control the voice – sing as a choir	Compose short patterns	Control and describe pitch	Control and describe tempo and dynamics	Choose sounds to create an effect
3 Mastering the glockenspiel	Singing	Untuned percussion	Singing	Glockenspiel	Glockenspiel	Range of instruments studied
	Singing focus: Introducing texture	Untuned focus: Mastering rhythm	Singing focus: The history of singing	Tuned focus: Musical notation	Tuned focus: Composition	Performance focus: Introducing timbre
	Sing parts in an ensemble (e.g. rounds)	Recognise beats in a bar (time signatures / metre)	Singing for togetherness e.g. folk songs, war chants, hymns	Introduce the staff	Compose in pairs	Perform as an ensemble (range of instruments)
4 Mastering the glockenspiel	Untuned percussion	Singing	Glockenspiel	Singing	Glockenspiel	Range of instruments studied
	Untuned focus: Mastering rhythm 2	Singing focus: Introducing texture 2	Tuned focus: Musical notation 2	Singing focus: The history of singing 2	Performance focus: Composition 2	Tuned focus: Introducing timbre 2
	Follow beats in a bar (time signatures / metre)	Sing parts in an ensemble (harmony)	Revisit the staff	Singing for entertainment, e.g. opera, contemporary, musical theatre	Perform including an element of composition	Identify and describe how sounds are combined
5 Mastering the keyboard	Untuned percussion	Singing	Keyboard	Singing	Range of instruments studied	Keyboard
	Untuned focus: Musical stories	Singing focus: Introducing structure	Tuned focus: Musical notation 3	Singing focus: Compositional devices	Performance focus: Composition 3	Tuned focus: Improvisation
	One piece, different performers	Identify parts of a song	Follow musical notation	Alter pitch and dynamics to create effects	Perform including an element of composition	Improvise using repeated patterns
6 Mastering the keyboard	Singing	Untuned percussion	Singing	Keyboard	Keyboard	Range of instruments studied
	Singing focus: Musical stories 2	Untuned focus: Music technology 2	Singing focus: Introducing structure 2	Tuned focus: Musical notation 4	Tuned focus: Composition 4	Performance focus: Improvisation 2
	Cultural and social – lyrics	Alter tempo and rhythm to create effects	Identify cyclic patterns inc. verse / chorus, coda	Create simple notation	Improvise using melodic phrases	Perform including an element of improvisation

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.

Additional Music Opportunities at John Scurr Primary School

In addition to the regular music curriculum, we offer a variety of exciting opportunities for pupils to further explore and develop their musical talents.

Weekly Singing Assemblies:

Each week, we host a **30-minute singing assembly** for each year group. These sessions provide a fun and engaging opportunity for pupils to come together and enjoy singing as a group, building their vocal skills and a sense of community.

Weekly Music Ambassadors:

Once a week, we run a Music Ambassadors group for selected pupils. These students receive 45 minutes of instrument tuition, focusing on developing their musical abilities and preparing for termly performances for parents. This is a great way for pupils to showcase their progress and gain confidence in performing.

Private Instrumental Tuition with Front Row Music:

John Scurr Primary School partners with Front Row Music to offer private instrumental lessons for guitar, ukulele, and keyboard. These lessons take place once a week in small groups, providing pupils with focused instruction and the chance to develop their skills outside of the regular classroom. These lessons are paid for by parents with Front Row Music offering subsidised places for pupils eligible for pupil premium.

These opportunities allow pupils to progress in music, whether by joining a group session, receiving private lessons, or performing for family and friends. We are committed to supporting every child's musical journey and encouraging them to reach their full potential.

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.

Musical Events and Experiences at John Scurr Primary School

At John Scurr Primary, we are proud to host a variety of musical events throughout the year, giving our pupils the chance to showcase their talents and experience live performances.

Whole-School Musical Performances:

Each academic year, we host two major school-wide performances: *Music and Mince Pies* in the Autumn term, and *Summer Sounds* in the Spring term. These events bring together students from all year groups to perform for parents and celebrate the musical achievements of our school community.

Year Group Musical Assemblies:

In the Autumn term, we invite the parents of each year group to attend our year group musical assemblies. These assemblies offer a wonderful opportunity for pupils from Nursery to Year 6 to perform and share the music they've been learning with their families.

Live Performances by Global Musicians:

To inspire our pupils and give them a taste of professional music, we regularly book performances by Global Musicians. These talented musicians perform in school for multiple year groups, providing a unique opportunity for pupils to experience a range of musical styles and performances live.

Trips to Professional Concerts:

In the Spring and Summer terms, we offer pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 the chance to attend a musical performance in the West End for a small fee, with free places available for pupils eligible for pupil premium. In addition, we organize theatre trips for other year groups, giving all our pupils the chance to enjoy the professional performances outside the school environment.

These events and opportunities provide a rich variety of musical experiences, helping to nurture our pupils' love of music while also allowing them to take part in memorable performances and experiences.

In the future

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

John Scurr Primary School has just been awarded funding from the Department of Education to purchase brand new instruments for our SEND provision. We have ordered a range of percussion and tuned percussion to create three different sound walls for both SEND classes to access within the whole provision that will also benefit the Nursery and 2 year old provision.

Further information (optional)

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

To find out more about our music provider, please visit [THAMES](#).

To find out more about our curriculum provider, please visit [CUSP](#).

To find out more about our singing assembly and instrument tuition provider, visit [Front Row music](#).