Music development plan summary: St Mark's School.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2027
Name of the school music lead	Alexandra Sarkar-Samuels
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ian Wilkinson
Name of local music hub	Hounslow 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.

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 curriculum is designed as a 'musical learning journey', in which technical, practical and creative musical knowledge and skills are developed progressively. All pupils in Years 7-9 receive one timetabled music lesson of 50 minutes each week.

- **Year 7:** Develops essential musical knowledge and skills, including notation, major and minor tonality, instruments of the orchestra, rhythm and remixing using BandLab and Logic Pro, alongside practical skills on keyboard, guitar, drum kit and voice.
- **Year 8:** Develops performance, composition and listening skills through Jazz, Gospel and Blues, popular music, classical composition, rock band

skills and Reggaeton, using both live instruments and music technology including BandLab and Logic Pro.

- **Year 9:** Further develops pupils' performance, composition and analytical skills through Film Music and Foley, Britpop and female British artists, musical theatre through Wicked, and EDM composition using a DAW.

Opportunities to sing and play: Pupils perform in every topic using a variety of instruments, including **voice, keyboard, drum kit, guitar, and bass guitar**. The curriculum uses marking schemes that align with GCSE and A level language to prepare pupils for higher-level study. Each topic is designed to suit all pupils' needs, and tasks are adapted to provide appropriate support and challenge for pupils with different starting points, especially within the practical elements. Pupils are stretched and challenged in starter tasks which develop music theory and analytical skills. Pupils with SEND are supported through appropriate adaptations and instrument choice, enabling them to develop their individual musical skills. DAWs are used for composition and a variety of styles are taught in composition covering classical units through to Reggaeton.

Key Stages 4 and 5: Pupils can continue their musical education through GCSE Music and A Level Music. Courses develop performance, composition, listening and analytical skills and provide progression towards further study and careers in music and the creative industries.

Access and inclusion: Financial circumstances should not prevent a pupil from participating in music. The school uses Pupil Premium and other funding to remove barriers to instrumental tuition, instrument hire and participation in ensembles. Adaptations and appropriate instrument choices are used to support pupils with SEND.

Partnerships and Qualifications: We work with **Hounslow Music Service** to provide instrumental lessons and Grade 5 theory. The curriculum is designed to provide pupils with **ABRSM Grade 1, 2, and 3 theory knowledge**.

The Model Music curriculum has been taken into account when choosing what topics are studied and which repertoire to use for listening and performing tasks.

Progression: Our aim is for pupils to be able to progress from classroom music into instrumental or vocal tuition, co-curricular ensembles and performance opportunities, and, where appropriate, into GCSE and A Level Music. Through our partnership with Hounslow Music Service, pupils can also access graded examinations and ensembles beyond school.

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.

We offer various opportunities for pupils to develop their skills outside of standard lesson time:

- **Tuition:** Instrumental and vocal tuition is provided in partnership with Hounslow Music Service, including woodwind, brass, percussion, voice and strings. Lessons may take place during the school day or through Hounslow Music Service outside school hours. Pupils can also access ensembles provided by the Music Service.
- **Instrument hire:** Instruments can be loaned through Hounslow Music Service. Instrument hire is funded by the school for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium where appropriate.
- **Large group ensemble:** Our weekly String Ensemble is led by Hounslow Music Service peripatetic staff. Pupils receiving string tuition participate in the ensemble, which is also open to other string players across the school. Tuition is funded for eligible pupils.
- **Advanced Theory:** A weekly session prepares pupils for Grade 5 Music Theory. Places are funded by parents/carers, with support available through Pupil Premium funding where appropriate.
- **Senior Choir:** Meets weekly and is open by invitation/audition to pupils in Year 9 and above.
- **Whole-School Choir:** Open to all pupils and rehearses in preparation for events such as the Christmas Carol Service.
- **Liturgy Choir:** Meets weekly and supports singing at Mass and other liturgical celebrations.
- **Orchestra:** Rehearses weekly under the direction of the Head of Music, preparing repertoire for concerts, assemblies and other school events.
- **Rock Band:** Led by Sixth Form pupils, with pupils selecting and preparing repertoire for performances at school events.

- **Inclusion:** Specific funding and support are provided for Pupil Premium (PP) pupils to ensure access to musical opportunities. GCSE PP pupils receive fully funded instrumental lessons. String pupils receive funded tuition as part of String Ensemble and KS3 pupils receive funded instrumental lessons if needed.
- **Practice rooms:** Individual and small group practices can take place during lunch and after school in our designated practice rooms.
- **Music Software:** pupils have the opportunity to use music software in the school when required, for example a pupil particularly interested in composing using Logic Pro, or recording onto the computers.
- **Music Scholars:** Weekly meetings during two terms, creating online recitals at least once a half term, trip opportunities

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.

pupils participate in regular performances and high-quality musical events:

- **School performances:** Pupils have regular opportunities to perform, including the Advent Performance, GCSE and A Level recitals and end-of-year showcases.
- **School production:** The Music and Drama departments work collaboratively to stage a school musical, providing opportunities for pupils to perform as singers, instrumentalists and members of the production team.
- **Assemblies:** Musical performances regularly form part of whole-school assemblies. Each term, the Music Department also leads an assembly showcasing musical opportunities, instrumental tuition through Hounslow Music Service and the school's co-curricular music provision.
- **Trips and live music:** Pupils have opportunities to participate in choral events and attend professional performances, including LSO learning concerts, musical theatre and performances of GCSE and A Level set works.

In the future

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

We are committed to the continuous improvement of our music provision with the following planned actions:

- **Curriculum Development:** Continue to develop a diverse and inclusive curriculum that reflects a broad range of musical styles, traditions and cultures.
- **Fluency:** Strengthen pupils' musical fluency by making links between topics more explicit and embedding regular retrieval and recap of prior learning.
- **Theory:** Further develop stretch and challenge materials in music theory to support high-achieving pupils and ensure consistency across the department.
- **Workshops:** Expand enrichment opportunities through workshops and masterclasses with specialist instrumentalists and musicians.
- **Careers:** Develop pupils' understanding of careers and progression routes in music and the wider performing arts, including opportunities to hear from visiting professionals.
- **Live Music:** Develop opportunities to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to experience high-quality live professional performance at least once during each academic year.
- **Participation:** Continue to monitor participation in co-curricular music and instrumental tuition, identifying and addressing barriers for groups that are under-represented.