

Music Development Plan Summary 2026-27

This summary sets out how Sparken Hill Academy delivers music education across three areas: curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, and what we plan to develop next.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027, before the start of 2027-28
Name of the school music lead	Mr Thornton, specialist music teacher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mr Richard Lilley
Name of local music hub	Nottinghamshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisations	N/A

Part A: Curriculum music

Every class from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 has a dedicated whole-class music lesson every week of the school year, taught by Mr Thornton, our full-time specialist music teacher. Between Reception and Year 6, this adds up to more than 250 music lessons for every child.

Time allocated. One weekly lesson for every class in Years 1 to 6 (*45 to 60 minutes depending on age*). In the Foundation Stage, music is also woven through daily singing, play and performances.

Our curriculum. Our music curriculum is our own, adapted from the DfE Model Music Curriculum (2021) and planned within our whole-school long-term plans. Each phase follows a two-year cycle of six half-termly units, with an even-year and an odd-year set, so every child completes both. Each unit has five clear "to know" statements, and the building blocks of music (pulse and rhythm, pitch and melody, dynamics, timbre and texture, harmony and structure, notation, composing and improvising, and performing) are revisited in more depth as children move through school.

Links to topics. Many units connect to the class topic: industrial rhythms during our Workop mining study in Upper Key Stage 2, rainforest soundscapes in Lower Key Stage 2, and dramatic music linked to the Second World War.

Instruments and technology. Children learn on real instruments in class: microphones, keyboards, drums, cellos, violas, violins, steel pans, hand bells, glockenspiels, guitars, samba percussion, taiko drums and GarageBand on iPads for composing, recording and understanding the keyboard.

Inclusion. Every child, in every class, takes part in curriculum music, including pupils with SEND, with lessons adapted so that every child can sing, play and create. *For pupils in our SEND EPU,*

the focus is on experiencing sound, experimenting with instruments (e.g. feeling vibrations, singing and following verbal cues.)

Assessment. Mr Thornton assesses each unit against its "to know" statements, using the school's Knowledge and Assessment Grids, so we can see how securely children have learned and plan next steps.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Outside lesson time, pupils can build on their curriculum music through the opportunities below. Details of clubs are shared with families each term through the Arbor app, and are listed on the Extracurricular page of our website.

- **Instrumental and vocal tuition:**
- **Help with costs:** *We currently do not charge for any music tuition in school.*
- **Choir and ensembles:** *there are two weekly orchestra sessions which are open to all children in year 5 and 6. There is an after-school session and an in school lunchtime session to open access to children who have other after school commitments.*
- **Instrument loan and practice space:** *Pupils have access to a range of instruments which they are able to borrow to take home if they wish. These include cellos, violins, violas and guitars.*
- **Music hub opportunities:** *Where possible the school engages in all local music hub activities. On a yearly basis we partake in the Voces 8 choral workshops hosted by Worksop College.*

Part C: Musical experiences

Performances throughout the year let every child share what they have learned with families and the wider school.

When	Experience	Who takes part
Autumn term	Harvest singing (Harvest Festival)	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
Autumn term	Nativity performances	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
Autumn term	Christmas performances, including singing in parts and harmony	Key Stages 1 and 2
Summer term	Whole-class ensemble performances	Upper Key Stage 2
Summer term	Showcase performance using instruments and music technology	Upper Key Stage 2
Summer term	Year 5&6 transition musical, set in a school called the Sparkly Tower	Year 5&6
Summer term	Year 6 Musical play as part of our leaving celebrations.	Year 6
Throughout the year	Singing in assemblies and collective worship twice weekly	All pupils
Throughout the year	Live music from visiting performers or trips to concerts e.g., Voces 8 at Worksop College,	Yrs. 4,5 and 6.

In the future

In 2026-27 our priority is to make the music curriculum as securely planned and assessed as every other subject.

Already under way this year

- New half-termly medium-term plans for music in Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 for the even-year cycle, written against our Model Music Curriculum adaptation, each unit with five "to know" statements and an end-of-unit assessment lesson.
- Music "to know" statements included in the consolidated long-term plans and the Knowledge and Assessment Grids, so progress in music is tracked in the same way as other foundation subjects.

Planned next

- Write medium-term plans and assessment grids for the odd-year cycle, ready for September 2027.
- Strengthen links with Nottinghamshire Music Hub for CPD, ensembles and tuition.
- Grow co-curricular groups built on the instruments taught in class, such as steel pans, taiko or samba.
- Make sure pupils eligible for pupil premium can access instrumental tuition and clubs.
- Review this summary in July 2027 and publish the 2027-28 version before September.

Further information

Our music curriculum, unit overviews and whole-school music journey are on the Music page of our website. The Nottinghamshire Music Hub's local plan for music education sets out the wider opportunities available to families;

<https://www.inspireculture.org.uk/be-inspired/news/music-development-plan-support-for-schools/>

For questions about music at Sparken Hill, contact the school office on 01909 534060 or office@sparkenhill.com.