Music development plan summary:
St Alban and St Stephen Primary Catholic School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 6
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Zoe Flatt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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

Music at SAS is delivered by a specialist music teacher to pupils in Years 1–6, with each class receiving a minimum of 45 minutes of dedicated music teaching per week. In EYFS, music is embedded throughout the Child-Initiated Learning provision, with opportunities for musical exploration, creativity and expression incorporated into continuous provision and, where appropriate, linked to specific topics across the academic year.

The music curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Appropriate support and adaptations are provided to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can fully participate and achieve. This may include additional adult support, collaborative learning with peers and reasonable adjustments tailored to individual needs.

The curriculum has been carefully designed to ensure clear progression in knowledge, skills and understanding across the four key areas of **performing, singing, listening and composing**. Progression is monitored by the music specialist, with ongoing formative assessment informing planning and teaching. A summative assessment of

each pupil's musical development is completed during the summer term, with outcomes shared with parents.

Curriculum planning is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) and supplemented by a range of high-quality resources, including Sing Up, Charanga and BBC Ten Pieces.

Throughout their music lessons, pupils are provided with regular opportunities to compose, perform, sing and listen to a wide range of musical styles and genres. These experiences take place both collaboratively, as a whole class, and in smaller groups. Pupils develop their musical skills through the use of classroom percussion instruments and digital music technology, including programmes such as GarageBand and Isle of Tune.

As part of the school's commitment to developing practical musicianship, all pupils in Year 3 receive tuition in playing the ukulele, followed by recorder tuition in Year 4. Pupils who receive instrumental tuition outside of school are also encouraged to bring their instruments into lessons, where appropriate, to share and further develop their musical skills.

The school values its wider musical partnerships and works closely with the St Albans Primary School Music Association (SAPSMA), as well as drawing on the expertise and opportunities provided by Hertfordshire Music Service. These partnerships help to enrich the musical experiences available to pupils and support the development of music across the school.

Part B: Co-curricular music

The school offers a range of co-curricular musical opportunities to extend pupils' musical experiences and encourage participation beyond the classroom.

Choirs are available to pupils in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, providing opportunities to develop vocal skills, confidence and ensemble performance. The choirs regularly participate in performances both within the school and in the wider community. Previous performance opportunities have included St Albans Cathedral, Luton Airport and the Alban Arena, as well as a range of school-based events and celebrations. These experiences enable pupils to share their musical achievements with wider audiences and develop a sense of pride and accomplishment.

In addition, the school offers extra-curricular ukulele and recorder clubs, providing further opportunities for pupils to develop their instrumental skills, musical confidence and enjoyment of playing as part of a group.

Pupils also have access to individual instrumental and vocal tuition through a team of visiting specialist music teachers, including both private practitioners and tutors from Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS). Tuition is currently available in piano, singing, guitar, violin, flute and brass instruments. To promote inclusivity and ensure that financial circumstances are not a barrier to accessing musical opportunities, subsidised lessons are available for eligible pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) funding.

Part C: Musical experiences

The school is committed to providing pupils with a wide range of meaningful musical experiences and performance opportunities, both within school and in the wider community. The following events have been reviewed in light of last year's experiences and successes, and will form part of the planned musical provision for the 2025–26 academic year.

Carol Concert at St Albans Cathedral and Community Carol Singing

The school choir performed at the annual Carol Concert at St Albans Cathedral and took part in carol singing at Luton Airport and for local community groups. These events were extremely successful, with strong support from parents and positive experiences for the children. They provided valuable opportunities for pupils to perform to wider audiences and contribute to the local community. These events will continue as a key part of the school's musical calendar.

EYFS and KS1 Nativity Performances

Nativity performances remain an important annual opportunity for our youngest pupils to develop their confidence, singing and performance skills. These will continue as part of the school's Christmas celebrations.

Choir Performance at the Alban Arena (Spring Term)

An opportunity was planned for the choir to perform at the Alban Arena, initially involving pupils in Years 5 and 6. However, due to choir membership numbers and a clash with girls' football at lunchtime, participation was predominantly from pupils in Years 3 and 4. This highlighted the importance of coordinating extra-curricular activities to maximise participation across year groups. The opportunity will be reviewed when planning future performances.

Recorder Ensemble Performance at the Alban Arena (Spring Term)

The planned recorder ensemble performance was unable to go ahead due to insufficient numbers of recorder players from the participating schools. This opportunity will be reconsidered should sufficient participation be available in future years.

Young Voices at Wembley Arena (Spring Term)

Year 5 pupils took part in the Young Voices concert at Wembley Arena. This was an extremely successful and memorable experience, providing pupils with the opportunity to perform as part of a large-scale massed choir in a professional arena setting. The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and this will remain an important part of the school's musical provision.

Year 6 End-of-Year Performance

The Year 6 end-of-year performance provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to take greater ownership of their musical contribution. Children took the lead in conducting songs and directing elements of the musical performance, demonstrating growing confidence, leadership and musical independence. This was a particularly successful aspect of the production and will continue to be encouraged in future performances.

Voice in a Million at Wembley Arena (Spring Term)

This academic year, Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to perform at Wembley Arena as part of *Voice in a Million*, a large-scale musical event that raises awareness of adoption and celebrates the importance of family. This will provide pupils with an exciting and meaningful performance experience, combining musical participation with an opportunity to support an important social cause.

Academy-Wide Musical Opportunities and Collaborative Events

Pupils will also be involved in a range of joint musical initiatives and collaborative opportunities through the academy's events programme. These experiences will enable children to work alongside pupils from other schools, share their musical talents and develop a sense of belonging within the wider academy community.

In the future.

- **Developing instrumental opportunities:** This is the first year that the school has offered a recorder club. The aim is to develop pupils' playing skills and confidence sufficiently to enable them to participate in the recorder ensemble at the Alban Arena towards the end of the Spring Term, subject to sufficient numbers from participating schools.
- **Enhancing music technology:** Review and invest in the school's existing music technology provision to ensure that pupils have access to appropriate, up-

to-date resources. This will include exploring the purchase of classroom keyboards to support composition, practical music-making and the development of pupils' understanding of musical elements. Alongside this, develop staff and pupil confidence in using music technology effectively within lessons.

- **Broadening musical experiences through workshops:** Explore opportunities to work with Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) to provide specialist musical workshops linked to curriculum themes and wider school topics throughout the academic year. For example, workshops celebrating different musical cultures and traditions could support learning during Black History Month, enriching pupils' cultural understanding and broadening their musical experiences.