

Music development plan summary: Shiphay Learning Academy

Overview

Music Development Plan Summary Shiphay Learning Academy
February 2026

Review: February 2027

Music Lead: Kate Lee

Devon Music Education Hub Partner

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 Intent at Shiphay Learning Academy

At Shiphay, all our children are musicians. We progress from EYFS, developing skills and knowledge in regular Music lessons using well-resourced equipment. Music is inclusive and all children participate in the lessons.

Singing is important at Shiphay. As well as singing in class, we have weekly Performance Singing Assemblies, to develop our technique and experience a range of songs and listening in different genres. Further development in singing is offered through our very popular Performing Arts Club in which children strengthen their own skills, as well as having the opportunity to work and perform locally and nationally in groups such as Young Voices.

In class, our children experience a range of instruments, including tuned and untuned percussion, recorders, ukuleles and clarinets. Music is taught regularly and lessons are supported through our Music Specialists and online resources. This provides planning support and ensures progression from one year group to the next. The subject lead monitors music through pupil conferencing, observations and discussions with staff. Assessments are recorded to ensure children are in line with Age Related Expectations against National Curriculum criteria.

The local Music Hub supports extra provision through Whole Class Ensemble Tuition funding. This funds classroom provision for clarinet tuition in Year 4. It is important that the children at Shiphay develop as well-rounded musicians, focusing on solo and ensemble performance skills, as well as composition and active listening and appraising. They become adept at improving their own and others' work through their listening skills. Children are regularly offered performance opportunities in school assemblies and with concerts to family and friends. In addition, they are coached in authentic career opportunity choices such as film score composing or performing.

As well as weekly music in class, children are given the opportunity to progress further through lessons with visiting music teachers. Lessons are offered on a variety of instruments. Children in receipt of FSM or PP are offered bursaries to support their instrumental learning. In addition to visiting music teachers, children are also given the opportunity to join "Rocksteady", building their musical skills and performing each term.

EYFS – music is taught regularly and included in continuous provision. Children learn to pitch match a small range of notes and sing entire songs from memory. Children listen attentively and move and talk about music. They sing in a group and on their own.

Key Stage 1 - children build on this through whole class exploration of rhythm and pulse. They begin to understand a range of notation such as graphic notation and rhythmic notation. They also play tuned and untuned percussion, learn to play the recorder and develop composition skills. They extend their vocal range to develop pitch matching and start singing in rounds. Pupils in KS1 benefit from an annual visit from Sonopera.

Lower Key Stage 2 – Years 3 and 4 build on the children’s existing knowledge through revisiting their glockenspiel and recorder skills, which lead on to the introduction of the clarinet. Children develop skills individually and as part of an ensemble. They are exposed to music from different genres, understanding that different cultures have different styles of music. They begin to show understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music by the use of music technology to compose music for a purpose. Vocally, children extend their range and understanding of technique. Pupils in Year 4 attend the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra live concert in Exeter.

Upper Key Stage 2 – In Years 5 and 6, children develop their composition skills through extended pieces of work on the ukulele and music technology where they refine their ideas for a specific effect or purpose. They develop their vocal technique to sing in parallel harmony and develop their confidence in part singing.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

In addition to music in class, children are given the opportunity to progress further through lessons with visiting music teachers. As well as Performing Arts Club, children are able to attend South Devon Music Centre's weekly orchestra. Children who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant can access lessons subsidised by the school.

If children would like to take their music further, we have the following Visiting Music Teachers:

- Piano
- Voice
- Violin
- Guitar
- Drums
- Woodwind
- Rocksteady

Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant are entitled to subsidised lessons.

Children are able to hire instruments from Devon Music Hub, however, where cost is a factor, we endeavour to remove this barrier through any available school resources.

Part C: Musical experiences

Other musical events and opportunities that we organise include weekly singing assemblies, Performing Arts annual show, nativities and end of term performances, secondary musical performances, live and online symphony orchestra events.

Children are regularly offered performance opportunities to family and friends.

In the upcoming academic year, in addition to their classroom experience, Performing Arts children will be offered the opportunity to be part of the Young Voices Choir at the bp pulse LIVE arena in Birmingham. Children in receipt of the PPG are eligible for subsidised travel. We work with Devon Music Hub to access live music experiences. These include the chance to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the Great Hall of the University of Exeter and the opportunity to work with the Sonopera team. We also accept invitations to attend performances at our local secondary schools.

We sing together in assembly every week with our music lead, Mrs Lee. In the Autumn Term we perform for family and friends in Nativities and Christmas Concerts. Children also have the opportunity to perform at a range of community events. This includes performing alongside established local bands.

In the Spring Term, we host our Spring Concert, and children can choose to perform for our community to showcase their instrumental and vocal abilities.

In the Summer term, Performing Arts perform a musical where the children have a chance to bring all their performance and music skills together to delight the audience. We also hold a whole school Arts week on alternate years. Music is an integral part of this. The children will have the opportunity to study chosen artists, learn songs and dances linked to the Art Week theme and play instruments alongside.

In the future

- We are looking at bringing in more varied specialist musicians to work with the children
- We are reviewing and developing our EYFS provision, including an outdoor music area

Further information

[The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education](#)

[MT's national plan coverage](#)

[Building a musical culture in a primary school – the nuts and bolts for success](#)