

Music development plan summary: Garstang St Thomas Church of England Primary School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	23/08/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jim Blakely, headteacher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lancashire 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.

The curriculum page of our website contains overviews of what is being taught in music throughout school. Music is planned and taught each term, following a progression of skills and linked, where appropriate, to the topic the children are studying. Music is taught weekly using either Charanga units work for the appropriate year group, instrument tuition and ensemble work based on Charanga schemes. Music is taken much further with a whole range of activities including, Nativities at Christmas, productions, talent shows, bands, performance opportunities, rewards and educational visits. We love singing at school. In addition to singing in lesson time, we sing in worship and our older children take this further by singing in our local community and producing song to sing at Christmas time and the end of year.

- In KS1 & KS2 follow the English model music curriculum scheme with Charanga (further information about music curriculum including EYFS is available on the curriculum page of our website).
- A Lancashire Music Service specialist teacher, teaches our Year 5 year group music. Children learn how to play a brass instrument during the year. There is an option to continue this in Year 6 in small groups/ as an individual.
- We have a specialist music teacher teaching our Year 6 class and so by the time children leave school, they are confident playing multiple instruments, including glockenspiels, ukulele and the trumpet, and they have a very strong foundation in music to take to secondary school. Many of our children continue learning instruments at secondary school.
- We provide our children with excellent experiences in music for example Year 6 going to the West End and Year 3 experiencing The Hallé at the Bridgewater Hall last year.
- Teachers can recommend children to be put forward for a Golden Treble Clef. To achieve this award in school the children need to perform with their instrument in front of an audience (generally the whole school and parents/carers) and also complete a GST theory exam.
- Children receive 1 hour per week in music teaching. In upper KS2 this is timetabled as a full hour with specialist teachers. In our younger classes, this may be in split up.

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.

Music forms a large part of our collective worship, with singing a key part of worship.

Children have the opportunity to join a choir at various points throughout the year. Choirs are formed for particular events, for example singing Christmas songs at a residential home for the elderly and carol singing in the town. We also have a choir which takes part in Young Voices.

We are keen for children to learn a range of instruments. This is something that is celebrated in school whether children learn inside or outside of school. Often we have children performing in our Friday celebration and in the past year we have formed a band to play together.

We offer peripatetic lessons during school time including: piano, woodwind, brass and guitar. If any parent/carer wishes their child to learn a different instrument, please speak to Mr Blakely. Mr Blakely is particularly keen, at this time, to hear from parents/carers who would like their children to learn to play the cello and the drums.

We encourage music tuition for those who are disadvantaged and have used the pupil premium for peripatetic music lessons.

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.

We plan to continue with our regular music experiences for example we have planned to take our current Year 6 class to the West End and we have booked to take part in Young Voices again. Some of our experiences are by class – with every child included - for example everyone in Year 3 went to experience The Hallé at the Bridgewater Hall last year. Other opportunities are out of the main school day and are offered as extra-curricular activities.

There are regular whole-school music experiences planned in worship time and in Friday Celebration.

We have an annual GST's Got Talent in school which is open to all children from Reception to Year 6.

We have a Radio Station in school in which our older children share music every Friday in term time – all of our Year 6 get the opportunity to take part in this activity. Other year groups in school are the audience.

Year 6 'release' a song at Christmas and at the end of the school year which is share on social media. They are sing at community events. Our choirs (open to KS2) also sing at community events.

In the future

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

- We have ECTs in school – to support and provide quality support/CPD so they are confident when teaching music.
- We would like to sing more of a range of songs in our worship time.
- In the past, we managed to establish bands involving the children and staff performing in Friday Celebration with drums, saxophone, piano, singing,

percussion and much more. These activities take time and effort by all involved but were excellent experiences for the children. In future we would like to work to ensure this continues - to further develop music ensembles/band performance in school.