# Music development plan summary:
# The Southwater Junior Academy

| Detail | Information |
|---|---|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025-2026 |
| Date this summary was published | 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Rebekah Kerney-Haynes |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Mark Dudeney |
| Name of local music hub | West Sussex Music |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Sussex Music Hub |

All SJA children are musicians. They sing, perform, compose and listen and respond.

Music is a part of daily school life at SJA and is valued by staff and pupils for the impact it has upon learning and mental well-being. Listening to music and singing are key tools used across the school to optimise the success of activities. Music Cups are given to two year 6 children per term in recognition of their contribution to the musical life of the school. These are coveted awards.

Enjoyment is key in class music lessons and learning is active and links to the 'real' world of music. Adaptation is a vital component in teaching and ensures learners flourish. Many of the activities involve working collaboratively with others.

We have a specialist music teacher who teaches each child across the school weekly for 30 minutes in Singing Assembly and in their music lesson which is every two weeks for 1 hour and ten minutes in Year 3, 5 and 6 and every week for 45 minutes in Year 4. Lower Juniors(Year 3 and 4) and Upper Juniors(Year 5 and 6) have separate singing assembly sessions to ensure progression in skills as they move through the school. All staff take an active part in singing assemblies. We are a platinum sing up school.

Class music lessons take place in the SJA Music Room, which is a dedicated space for music with excellent resources. We have whole class sets of instruments (ukuleles, samba band, djembes, non-tuned percussion and tuned percussion), access to school ipads to use technology such as garage band to support their learning, a wireless blue tooth amplifier to enable outside rehearsals and performances, a sound bar to ensure

an appropriate level of sound for tracks in rehearsal and recording facilities to capture key moments.

All lessons and singing sessions follow a bespoke SJA curriculum created using National Curriculum, Model Music Curriculum and the National Plan for Music Education.

Learning takes place in half termly units. Each unit has a creative thread running through it which connects the unit from the beginning to the end. In this creative context, skills and knowledge are taught. Each unit consolidates, builds upon and links previous learning with the overarching intention of opening the door to the ‘real’ world of music to SJA pupils by increasing their knowledge and skills.

All children at SJA learn the ukulele from Year 3 -6 in their class music lessons. It is our aim that pupils leave SJA being able to play 3 or 4 chords so they can strum along to popular songs in the future and continue their musical journey.

In Year 3 they have two terms where they focus on the ukulele and then each term in Year 4,5 and 6 they have a couple of lessons where they revisit and develop their ukulele skills.

We work closely with West Sussex Music and participate actively in their CPD programme. We were one of the first schools put forward by West Sussex Music to be a music mark school and have recently been awarded a music mark recognition award for ambition and quality by West Sussex Music for our provision for music. We are a lead school for music within the Sussex Music Hub and a part of the Lead Schools for Music Development Group.

## 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.

## 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.

Children at SJA also have the opportunity to learn a vast array of other instruments with our visiting peripatetic teachers. We currently offer: guitar, brass, woodwind, bassoon, violin, cello, keyboard and percussion. We work closely with West Sussex Music to ensure all our learners have access to these opportunities through their bursary scheme. Significant moments in their learning are often shared in whole school assemblies and certificates awarded. We have approximately 100 pupils currently learning instruments.

Thoughout a school year, we offer pupils learning instruments an opportunity to be a part of an ensemble. The pupils learn their individual part with their instrumental teacher and then come together with their music teacher to put together the ensemble.

Autumn Term

Year 5 – perform a Christmas piece as part of the Year 5 performance.

Spring Term

Year 3 and 4 – perform a piece at the Sharing Spaces Concert

Summer Term

Year 6 – form a band (instrumental group) to accompany some of the songs in the Year 6 production

Our Sharing Spaces Concert also gives pupils learning instruments a supportive context to begin performing to others.

Our learners are actively encouraged to be a part of music making outside of school through West Sussex Music.

Year 6 children are offered the opportunity to take part in a Young Voices concert at the 02 Arena in January each year. We rehearse throughout the Autumn Term at lunchtime and then perform with a massed choir of 3,000 plus

children. This is a magnificent event. It really hooks the children and gives them a chance to see what they can do musically.

Year 3, 4 and 5 are offered singing opportunities through our ‘Big Sing’ group, which also rehearses at lunchtimes. This year we are performing with the West Sussex Youth Choir and Orchestra in the Worthing Assembly Hall. Again, an opportunity for children to experience something outside of their usual day to day activities and to make connections for the future.

All music clubs at SJA are offered free of charge. Costs for opportunities outside of the school day are kept to a minimum and financial support offered if applicable.

## 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.

*Throughout the year children at SJA come together in whole school assemblies to showcase songs they have been working on in singing assemblies. These are uplifting occasions for pupils and staff.

*Each child is involved in a performance to an invited audience during each school year. Our audiences range from parents, members of the local community and children from our main feeder school, The Southwater Infant Academy.

Year 3 – a nativity in the school hall - emphasis on unison singing, involvement, watching and general musical skills.

Year 4 – a Christmas concert in the school hall – emphasis on diction, nuances in performance and beginnings of part singing and solo roles.

Year 5 – a Christmas play in the school hall – emphasis on refinement and part singing with plenty of opportunities for solo and small group singing.

Year 6 – Christmas carol singing at Lintott Square – a real community event.

End of year production at the Drill Hall, Horsham – an opportunity to showcase our musical skills – massed singing, part singing, solo and small group singing, dynamics, diction, musical effects etc.

*Thoughout a school year, we offer pupils learning instruments an opportunity to be a part of an ensemble which performs at a school event. The pupils learn their individual part with their instrumental teacher and then come together with their music teacher to put together the ensemble.

Autumn Term

Year 5 – perform a Christmas piece as part of the Year 5 performance.

Spring Term

Year 3 and 4 – perform a piece at the Sharing Spaces Concert

Summer Term

Year 6 – form a band(instrumental group)to accompany some of the songs in the Year 6 production

Our Sharing Spaces Concert also gives pupils learning instruments a supportive context to begin performing to others. This is also encouraged in class music lessons.

*Opportunities for our peripatetic instrumental teachers and their pupils to perform in assemblies are actively encouraged through the year to broaden the children's musical diet and to experience listening to live music as a member of an audience.

*Year 6 – opportunity available to be part of a Young Voices concert at the 02 Arena

*Year 3,4 and 5 – opportunity available to be a part of a concert with West Sussex Youth Choir and Orchestra at Worthing Assembly Hall.

## In the future

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

It is our ambition to have more musicians into SJA during a school year. For example, to ask Cadenza (a West Sussex Music partner) to bring their ensemble to play to the children. Or Emily Barden (a West Sussex Music partner), a song writer, to come in and work alongside the children to create an SJA school song. The possibility to bid for such opportunities through funding from our PTA.

It is also our aim to start a ukulele orchestra in a lunchtime, particularly to give children not learning an additional instrument the opportunity to perform in an ensemble.