Music development plan summary: Northiam Church of England Primary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sandra Benhamou
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sandra Benhamou
Name of local music hub	Sussex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

- At Northiam Church of England Primary School, curriculum music is taught in all year groups during alternating terms. The school follows the Kapow Primary Music scheme, which is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and informed by the Model Music Curriculum. Its progressive, week-by-week lessons support pupils in developing their knowledge and skills in performing, listening, composing and the interrelated dimensions of music.
- Progress is monitored through lesson observations, class floor books and the school's progression documents. Pupil discussions demonstrate an increasing ability to recall and apply key musical vocabulary. Observations show that pupils are engaged and actively involved in lessons, including pupils with SEND.
- Lessons provide regular opportunities for pupils to sing and to play a range of tuned and untuned instruments, including xylophones and glockenspiels.

Singing is also developed beyond curriculum lessons through whole-school singing assemblies.

- Teachers are supported by Kapow's subject-knowledge videos and lesson resources, helping them to teach musical elements, active listening and musical appreciation confidently. The school also uses curriculum swap-over sessions, during which the music subject leader teaches music to other classes and supports consistent, high-quality provision across the school.
- Activities are adapted so that disabled pupils and pupils with SEND can participate meaningfully. Adaptations may include visual prompts, simplified or repeated musical patterns, additional modelling, accessible instruments, paired support and alternative ways of responding or performing.
- Northiam works within the **Sussex Music Hub** area, with **Create Music** providing music education support across East Sussex.
- The school's published music curriculum and information about provision for pupils with SEND can be found here: https://northiamcep.e-sussex.sch.uk/Learning/Music/

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.

At Northiam Church of England Primary School, pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities to develop their musical skills beyond their timetabled curriculum lessons.

Weekly singing assemblies enable pupils to learn and perform a broad repertoire of songs. Children participate with confidence and enthusiasm, developing their vocal skills, musical vocabulary and enjoyment of communal singing. Pupils can also attend a weekly choir session led by the music subject leader. The choir develops ensemble singing, performance skills and confidence while preparing pupils for school and external events.

Instrumental opportunities are available across the school. Year 1 pupils learn to play the ocarina through Friday Focus, while Year 3 pupils receive an introduction to the ukulele. All pupils in Years 3 and 4 participate in whole-class recorder teaching, and pupils in Years 5 and 6 learn to play the ukulele. These experiences allow pupils to develop instrumental skills progressively and experience playing as part of an ensemble.

Specialist piano teacher Charlotte O'Neill offers private piano tuition to pupils from Reception to Year 6. Piano pupils have opportunities to perform in concerts for parents,

carers and other children, celebrating their progress and developing their confidence as performers.

The school also works with Rocksteady to provide weekly band tuition. Pupils can learn electric guitar, drums or keyboard, or develop their singing as part of a band. Pupil Premium funding is used to help eligible pupils access this provision, supporting equality of opportunity.

Pupils have participated in large-scale musical events, including Young Voices and the One Voice Christmas Special at the De La Warr Pavilion. Throughout the year, children also perform through Christmas productions, musical events and class assemblies presented to parents, carers and their peers.

These experiences enable pupils to develop their musical interests beyond the classroom, rehearse and perform collaboratively, and progress in singing and instrumental performance. The school's commitment to strengthening its musical provision has been recognised through the Music Mark recognition for Dedication to Improvement.

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.

Northiam Church of England Primary School provides pupils with regular opportunities to perform music and experience live performances throughout the academic year.

All pupils participate in weekly singing assemblies, where they learn and perform a varied repertoire together. Pupils also perform songs and instrumental pieces during class assemblies for parents, carers and their peers.

Children take part in annual Christmas productions, combining singing, acting and performance. The school choir performs at school events and within the local community, including singing to residents at a local care home. Participation in additional choir performances is voluntary.

Pupils also have opportunities to perform beyond the school. The choir has participated in **Young Voices** and the **One Voice Christmas Special at the De La Warr Pavilion**, allowing children to sing as part of a large ensemble in a professional venue.

Piano pupils and Rocksteady bands present concerts to parents, carers and other pupils. These events give performers an opportunity to celebrate their progress, while

the rest of the school develops its experience of listening and responding as an audience.

The school aims to ensure that cost does not prevent pupils from taking part. Pupil Premium funding and additional support for pupils with SEND are used where appropriate, including matched funding offered through Rocksteady.

In the future

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

Northiam Church of England Primary School will continue to strengthen its music provision by focusing on the following priorities:

- Develop staff confidence through relevant professional development, subject-leader support, shared planning and opportunities to observe effective music teaching.
- Extend whole-class instrumental tuition by exploring opportunities for a specialist music teacher to work regularly with pupils across the school.
- Continue improving the quality, consistency and inclusivity of music provision while working towards further recognition from Music Mark.
- These developments will support consistent teaching, strengthen pupils' musical progression and increase access to high-quality instrumental learning.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local music hub should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.