Music development plan summary: East Stour Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-6
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	April 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss L Coates
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs S Sadler
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Make Time for Music

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 East Stour, children are taught Music by either the class teacher or our Music specialist. They learn about music for an average of 1 hour per week across the year (including a 20-minute Singing Assembly). We teach using the Charanga scheme from Year R to Year 6, following the non-statutory guidance being followed. Children learn to sing as part of their music lessons, in Singing Assembly and in the additional opportunities for performance, for example Nativity (Year R-2), Harvest Festival (all year groups) and the Year 6 end of year production.

Nursery and EYFS: In the EYFS, children have access to a Music area, both inside and outside. They explore untuned instruments as part of their free play. They also receive mini lessons from our specialist music teacher, focusing on moving their body to music, learning simple rhymes and songs, as well as exploring untuned instruments.

KS1: Pupils are taught to: Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes, play tuned and untuned instruments musically, listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music. They also experiment with, create, select and combine sounds. Some questions are: Do you like the song? What can you hear? What is the style of the music? How is the song put together?

KS2: Pupils are taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory. Children also play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression, improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the interrelated dimensions of music. They listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory, use and understand staff and other musical notations, appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians, and develop an understanding of the history of music.

Year 4 receive Whole Class Instrument Tuition on ukuleles, with the company Make Time for Music. An additional 2 terms are paid for by the school, to ensure the children receive a full year of instrument tuition. Year 3 also receive tuition in recorders from our specialist Music teacher for a full year.

SEND: Children with SEND are supported in Music by our SEND and FLO teams, to ensure they are calm and ready to access learning. They also have access to ear defenders (should the music prove too loud) or the opportunity to choose an alternative instrument, to cater for sensory needs. Staff are also trained in Adaptive Teaching, to ensure all children can access the same learning, but perhaps via a different route. Our music specialist is also timetabled to spend time with identified SEND children, both on a therapeutic level to engage them in music and for catch-up, if they have missed part of their music learning. Extensive repetition and revisiting of musical skills also benefits our SEND children, for example singing the same songs in Singing Assembly to ensure they have mastered them.

East Stour are lucky to be part of the EKC Trust, and have links with Ashford College, who this year have provided a Year 5 Singing Workshop for us on their site. We are also part of the Kent Music hub, and receive network support from other practitioners as well as attending cross-hub workshops.

Part B: Extra-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.

In partnership with the company Make Time for Music, we offer 1:1 or small group instrument lessons out of lesson time, paid for by parents. We currently have children learning guitar, violin and keyboard via this route. If it is required, we encourage parents to apply for Financial Assistance from Kent Music, which can provide financial assistance for children wishing to learn an instrument but for whom cost is a barrier.

East Stour also offers a free Choir club, which is run by our Music specialist once a week at lunchtimes. In the autumn term, we also offer a free Young Voices choir club, after school, to prepare our choir for the concert in January each year. Recorder club and Christmas Choir also run seasonally through the year.

In addition, we offer 'Rocksteady', which is paid for by parents but Pupil Premium children can apply for a free place. This enables children to 'try out' a range of different instruments in a band setting, before performing in a 'concert' at the end.

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 have a variety of musical experiences planned for this academic year:

- Weekly singing assemblies for KS1 and KS2.
- Young Voices January 2027 at the O2 Arena - choir sings with thousands of other children but also watches talented singers and musicians on stage. Children pay to take part but the Music Team fundraises to ensure the cost is as low as possible for families.
- Choir singing at our local ASDA at Christmas, to raise money for charity.
- Choir recording of 'Over the Rainbow' to be played at the 'Wave of Light' in Ashford Memorial Gardens, as part of Baby Loss Awareness Week
- Our choir performed at Ashford Borough Council's Battle of Britain memorial in September 2025, Ashford's Carnival of the Baubles as well as Ashford International's 30th Anniversary event.

- Year 5 singing workshop at Ashford School - children learn singing skills and songs, then sing them in an end-of-day performance in front of parents. This workshop is free as a result of our strong links with Ashford School.
- Ashford Primary Music Workshop March 2025 - organised by Kent Music, at Highworth School. For Year 4, children attend singing workshops then perform together with other schools at the end of the day.
- Harvest festival October 2026 - every class sings and puts on a performance of a harvest song.
- Summer Concert July 2026 - Year 3 and 4 children perform their violin/recorder learning, as well as individual performers, in front of KS2 and parents.
- EKC talent show - children perform a series of songs to their class and children vote for their favourite. They go through to a final with the nine schools in our trust.
- EKC Christmas concert - a group of children from East Stour performed at Canterbury College to the other schools in our trust and parents.

In the future

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

- In the future, we plan to introduce additional music clubs after-school, particularly ensembles where children learning instruments can join together to play.
- Add more music technology and digital music learning to the curriculum, to make it more relevant to today's children.
- Encourage higher take-up of instrument lessons, especially for LAC and PP children.
- Participate in more Kent Music collaborative events with other schools.
- Greater opportunities for children to watch live music performances, e.g. ballet, Kent Music Roadshow, mini orchestras, musical shows.
- Make greater links with our other EKC partners, especially Ashford College.
- Consider ways to make rehearsal space e.g. a designated music room.

Further information

Please explore the links below for additional information:

- Make Time for Music - the company which provides our 1:1 instrument lessons.
- Kent Music : the Kent and Medway Music Hub
- 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 for support beyond the school.

- Ashford College - opportunities for children beyond school
- Ashford School - we are lucky enough to partner with Ashford School for some music workshops.