

Music development plan summary:

Katherine Semar Schools



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	5.11.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Jude Savill
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Anthony Hull
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Saffron Hall Saffron Choral Society SWCHS

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.

Katherine Semar Music Curriculum

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. Pupils who are disadvantaged or who have SEND can find that music is an invaluable way to express themselves.

Our Approach

At Katherine Semar Schools, we not only meet the expectations of the National music curriculum, but we surpass them.

Taking the National Curriculum as a starting point, we have built our own bespoke curriculum which includes a whole school music progression, detailing the small granular steps of progression that will enable our pupils to make progress and succeed in music. The progression also details the range and scope of music studied, with common themes such as Music that tells a Story, running throughout the whole school, as well as year group specific listening. Music learning is supported by a wide range of music from many cultures, periods, styles and genres which pupils listen and respond to. This is carefully planned and includes a selection of great composers, including living composers.

[..\Planning\Music Long term plan updated July 24 js.docx](#)

[Music Progression 2023-24 updated.docx](#)

Whole Class Music Lessons

Each Year group, from EY to Y6 have an hour of music teaching with our music specialist every week of every term across the whole year. Music also permeates school life and therefore, pupils receive far more musical experiences than the class curriculum music allows.

Resources

The greatest resource we have in school is our team of experienced music teachers. We have a specialist music teacher, a visiting local composer and choral conductor who runs choir and orchestra in KS2, a team of peripatetic teachers and support staff who run extra-curricular music clubs. Many of our class teachers also play instruments, two of whom attend orchestra.

We draw upon a wide range of high - quality resources to enhance and support our music teaching at Katherine Semar Schools. Resources such as Charanga, Yustudio (music technology), Sing Up, Royal Opera House Create and Sing, BBC 10 Pieces are selected carefully and embedded within our progressions, to enrich our curriculum.

One -off resources such as Music Hub workshops, visiting performers and events at Saffron Hall are also utilised when opportunities arise. (see Musical Experiences, below)

Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET)

Embedded in the KS2 curriculum is the opportunity for ALL pupils to learn a musical instrument. Whole class ensemble tuition ensure that pupils have the opportunity to revisit and build upon skills from previous years.

Year 3---Recorder/barred instruments (glockenspiels)

Year 4—Recorder/ barred instruments (glockenspiels)

Year 5—Recorder/ ukelele / Samba (the ukelele is new to this year group, and has worked well)

Year 6---Ukulele / barred instruments (glockenspiels and xylophones)

Instrument Audit and Investment

The school has invested in new glockenspiels to increase the number so that each child in a class can play. The school has taken on a long-term loan of 18 violins from Saffron Hall so that the WCET offer to KS2 pupils may be broadened to include a stringed / bowed instrument.

The school has also invested in 16 tongue drums – an easily accessed instrument that is renowned for its soothing sound. These are being introduced within KS2, and the aim is for a nurture group to be set up by the music lead for particular pupils next year. TAs also to be introduced to these with the idea of introducing the drums for co-/self-regulating strategy for children who are regularly dysregulated.

Developments in Teaching and Learning

After a year in post, Jude Savill has, with support from the headteacher, continued to develop music both in taught curriculum and outside of curriculum. Two Ofsted inspections found teaching and learning in music to be outstanding, as was leadership.

Jude Savill has taken part in three collegiate conferences led by Primary Improvement Partner Kerrie McGivern, promoting best practice and sharing experience eg in curriculum design and implementation.

Jude Savill has undertaken training with Charanga development staff to learn YuStudio and subsequently develop units of work for embedding digital music studio production in years 4-6

Lauren Fitt, who teaches music across EYFS and KS1 undertook training with the Royal Opera House in teaching singing.

Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication and Improvement in Music was awarded: *“In celebration and recognition of the value that you place on music in your school, and for the work delivered as a partner in the Greater Essex Music Hub, we are presenting your school with the Music Mark of Recognition for Dedication & Improvement.”*

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.

Instrumental Lessons

In KS2, pupils are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument in 1-1 lessons in addition to the WCET (see above). We have a large group of highly qualified private instrumental teachers offering lessons in the following instruments:

Violin

Piano (we have 3 piano teachers)

Drums

Guitar (we have 2 guitar teachers)

Flute

Saxophone

Clarinet

Voice

Brass

Disadvantaged pupils are encouraged to learn an instrument and the school offers financial support.

Our peripatetic music teachers all offer pupils the chance to work towards preparatory tests, music exams and performance grading.

The music lead, in consultation with instrumental teachers, has produced a “**Katherine Semar Guide to Practising**” which aims to support pupils and parents alike to practise effectively in order to make optimum progress. [..\Instrumental Tuition\Instrumental lessons\Guide to practising.docx](#)

We have a dedicated administrator to facilitate organisation of lesson timetables and room allocations, as well as pupil applications for lessons. She works closely with the

Music Lead to ensure that this runs smoothly in the interests of both pupils and peri teachers, as well as liaising with our choir and orchestra lead where required.

Our curriculum is enhanced with the help of local composer and conductor Janet Wheeler who runs our Junior Choir and Orchestra. Her expertise and knowledge of repertoire give the pupils further opportunities to develop their musicianship.

Junior Choir (Years 4-6) This is a paid for club, which gives the members a high-quality singing experience, with a termly performance. (Non-auditioned)

Orchestra (Years 3-6) This is a paid for club which build pupils' musicianship skills and ensemble playing. (Members are invited to join on the recommendation of their music teachers) Termly opportunities to perform to school and parents.

Young Voices Choir Every two years, Year 5 and 6 choir members have the opportunity to take part in the wonderful experience. Extra rehearsals for this take place at lunchtime.

Recorder Club KS2 (lunchtime club for improvers—all welcome)

Music and Drama club.KS1 This is a paid for club which takes place in our dedicated music room, after school.(Not auditioned)

Show Choir KS2 This is a paid for club which is open to years 3-6. It takes place in our dedicated music room, after school. (Not auditioned)

Derbyshire Choir KS2 This was a temporary choir set up to perform at a formal event held at Saffron Hall for the retirement of the outgoing Academy Trust Head held in an evening.

Disadvantaged pupils are encouraged to join a club and the school offers financial support.

Instrument Loans

The school owns several musical instruments which can be loaned out to pupils at a marked discount from Music Shop Hire.

SCYM

We are proud to promote links with Saffron Centre for Young Musicians which is a Saturday morning music school at SWCHS, affiliated with Guildhall school of Music and Drama.

Saffron Music Festival

Pupils are encouraged to enter the annual Music Festival at SWCHS. Several of our pupils have taken part and won medals on voice, drums and violin.

Rehearsal and Teaching Rooms

We have a dedicated, well-equipped music room in which class music lessons take place. We also have two excellent music practice rooms in which many of our 1-1

lessons take place. These practice rooms can be offered to pupils to practice their instruments with a parent supervising, after school.

Pupils are also encouraged to practice their instruments during After school club, in the library space.

Saffron Walden Children's Orchestra

We promote the holiday workshops and concerts offered by the SWCO.

Essex Music Hub

The school has worked with Greater Essex Music Hub, to utilise their workshop experiences for schools.

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.

Assemblies

Singing is a golden thread which runs throughout our music teaching across key stages. We hold weekly singing assemblies, in which the whole school gathers together to learn new songs and sing old favourites. Where appropriate, this is also an opportunity for pupils to learn about particular dimensions of music (eg tempo, pulse, pitch) and/or instruments.

In music assemblies, there is a focus on a particular musician/composer/group, with reference to the period and genre of music. Our programme of assembly music is planned carefully to focus on a range of musical genres from ancient to modern. Diversity within this programme is actively planned for to promote 'I see me'.

Singing features frequently in class assemblies and is used to mark special occasions such as Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day (EYFS, KS1).

Musical Events that took in 2024-2025

Term/Month	What	Who	Audience
Throughout the year	Class Assemblies	All year groups from EY – Y6	Parents Teachers and pupils from the rest of the school
October	Harvest Festivals	All pupils in EY-Y2	Parents

October	St Mary's Church Organ Outreach event	All Y3 pupils	Y3 pupils
November	The robot and the bluebird at Saffron Hall	All Y2 pupils	Y2 pupils
December	Christmas Productions	All pupils in EY-Y5	Parents
December	Carol Services	All pupils in EY-Y2 All teachers and pupils in Y3-Y6 Junior School Choir Junior School Orchestra Show Choir	Y2 Parents KS2 Parents
December	Spirit of Christmas—St Mary's Parish Church In conjunction with Saffron Choral Society	Junior School Choir	Parents/other schools
December(biennial) Not this year.	Christmas Fete	Choir	Parents/other pupils
January (biennial) Not this year.	Young Voices Concert—O2 Arena	Young Voices Choir(Y5-6)	Parents/other schools
January – February 2025	Uprising Project Saffron Hall, University of Cambridge	Year 5	Other schools
March	Spring Showcase	KSJ Orchestra KSJ Choir Soloists Show Choir	Parents/Junior school
April	Drumming Workshops	All pupils in EY-Y2	Pupils in EY-Y2

May	May Day Celebrations	All pupils in EY-Y2	Parents/Y3 pupils
June	Summer Concert	Junior School Choir	Parents/Y2-5
June	KSJ's Got Talent	Teachers select an act for each class and year groups vote for their chosen act to go through to the final.	Parents and pupils
July	Rap DJ Workshop	All Y6 pupils	Y6 pupils
July	Saffron Hall Jess Gillam Ensemble	All Y3 pupils	Y3 pupils
July	Y6 Production	All Y6 pupils	Junior school plus Y2/parents
July	Presentation of Music Contribution Award	2 Y6 pupils who have shown commitment and contributed to musical life of school	KS2 pupils.
July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly	All Y6 pupils	Parents

Further opportunities for music-making

We run a Creative Arts week every 4th year across both schools with an overarching theme, in which all pupils experience a range of arts such as art, dance, drama, music, often with a multicultural focus.

We encourage pupils to take part in our annual Christmas song or carol composition challenge.

We extend this in Creative Arts week, to include a composition challenge relating to the theme for that week eg The Environment, during years when this takes place.

Further opportunities for performing are encouraged with our annual KSJ's Got Talent competition, in which many pupils choose to share musical skills such as songwriting, singing, dancing or instrumental playing.

Pupils having instrumental lessons both in or out of school are encouraged to be a Guest Performer in assemblies across both schools, to inspire more pupils to take up an instrument and to give valuable performing experience.

Our peripatetic teachers are invited and encouraged to showcase their instrument in an assembly to inspire pupils to take up their instrument, and also to inform pupils about the instrument.

In the future

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

Music Lead

- Jude Savill will be in her second year in post as music lead. She aims to continue to develop musical offering within and in addition to curriculum. There are plans to develop a greater offer to vulnerable/disadvantaged pupils.
- **Succession planning for Orchestra**---new members are invited to join orchestra in the Summer term if they are ready, so that they can benefit from support from more experienced Y6 pupils.
- Further invitations will be sent out in September, on the advice of instrumental teachers, and families will be invited to inform school about their children who learn instruments outside of school who may wish to join orchestra.
- **Christmas Concerts** – it is planned to reinstate visit/s to elderly accommodation centres in Saffron Walden after a break this year.
Young Voices Concert – this is taking place in late January 2026, on our biannual cycle. A lunchtime choir will be set up to start running as soon as possible in Autumn Term 2025, to be lead by Jude Savill.
- **Arts Week** – Summer 2026 - in conjunction with art lead. A school-wide celebration and spotlight on creative arts.

New instrumental pupils

- Preparations for new KS2 pupils to take up instrumental lessons occurs in the Summer term. Junior pupils perform in assemblies in infant and Junior school, to encourage new starts. Instrumental teachers will lead assemblies, especially for “rare” instruments such as brass, to encourage uptake.

WCET

- Introduce violin in Year 4 and Year 6.
- Introduce tongue drums within Y5 compositional project (Rainforest).

Next year’s planned WCET

Year 3---Recorder/barred instruments (glockenspiels) /

Year 4—Recorder/ barred instruments (glockenspiels) / violin

Year 5—Recorder/ ukelele / tongue drums / Samba

Year 6---Ukulele / barred instruments (glockenspiels and xylophones) / recorder / violin

- Develop notational progression within LTP to ensure a clear, structured progression. New Y3 unit for Autumn 1 is already planned to develop this.
- Music lead to monitor teaching within EYs – Y2, which is taught by another teacher.
- Consider using music hub to provide some WCET and/or workshops next year eg samba for Year 5 (PLAC funding) and 6. Only one PLAC funding per school.

Advertise music loan scheme from Essex Music Service.

Audit musical instruments available within school for loan.

New Choral Festival – a project led by Jude Savill and Laura Thomas (Clavering Primary Choir Leader), in conjunction with Thomas Hardy (Schools Engagement Lead at Saffron Hall) and SWCHS where primary school choirs will come to perform a song for the other school choirs attending. Caroline Law, head of Music at SWCHS is also involved and will bring a lower school choir to perform for the primary schools. An inspiring youth choir specialist to be recruited to lead combined activities throughout the day in order that all primary school choirs in attendance will form one large choir to perform together for a performance to families (tbc). This is planned to take place in late Spring Term 2026. The aim is that this will become an annual or biannual event that may increase in scope as time goes on.

Further information (optional)