

Music development plan summary:

Katherine Semar Schools



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	09-09-2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
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 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.

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/Samba refresh (glockenspiels and xylophones)

Instrument Audit and Investment

The school has invested in new samba equipment partially through a grant from the Universal Music UK Sound Foundation – this has included several new drums and other percussion instruments. The school had taken on a long-term loan of 18 violins from Saffron Hall; however, storage of these has proved difficult and they are being returned.

The tongue drums have been used in a nurture group, and are now incorporated into planning, particularly in Year 5.

Developments in Teaching and Learning

Jude Savill has attended two Ofsted Best Practice online sessions with Christopher Stevens, HMI National Lead for Music: 1. October 2025, with a focus on the Ofsted framework for music and assessment, and 2. June 2026 with a focus on the new Ofsted Enrichment Benchmarks. Jude also attended the annual Essex Music Conference in July, which gave interesting insights into encouraging children to tackle compositions in a way which is open ended yet accessible.

In response to these meetings, I am now working to update the music progression, and ensuring that assessment is made possible through determining pupils' development as performers and composers. The aim is to have some clearer stage markers. Work will need to be undertaken to ensure that there is sufficient coverage of composition and performance. Some units of work are being rewritten to match changing cohorts and school intake. The aim is to begin to undertake some tuned WCET lower down the school in KS1 – introducing a limited number of notes on glockenspiels, for example.

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 - our current vocal teacher will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term 2026.

Brass

Disadvantaged pupils are encouraged to learn an instrument and the school offers financial support. We have enabled one talented PPG child to access free piano lessons and supported the parents of another pupil with a disability to take up guitar through grant applications.

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 peripatetic 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). PPG children have the option to choose this as a their free club.

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. This happened during the Autumn term 2025, with the choir travelling to the O2 Arena in January for a fantastic concert. The next Young Voices we aim to take part in will be in Autumn – January 2027-28.

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)

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

New Choral Festival – a project led by Jude Savill and Laura Thomas (Clavering Primary Choir Leader), in conjunction with Mark Norman and Caroline Law at SWCHS where primary school choirs came perform a song for the other school choirs attending. An inspiring choir leader, Carrie Rawlings, was employed to run the day alongside Jude and Laura and each primary choir performed their own piece. Caroline Law, head of Music at SWCHS was also involved and will brought two lower school choirs to perform for the primary schools. One large choir performed a collaborative piece taught by Carrie Rawlings together for a performance to families. The aim is that this will become a repeating event – the feedback from those taking part was very encouraging.

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.

St Mary's Church Choir Outreach

We have links to the organisers of the St Mary's Church Choir, who have occasional outreach sessions.

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.

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.

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 2025-26

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
November	Saffron Hall	KS1	KS1
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	Carol Singing to residents at Highfield's Care Home	Year 5 and 6 choir members	Residents
December(biennial) Not this year.	Christmas Fete	Choir	Parents/other pupils
January (biennial) Occurred this year. Next is 27-28	Young Voices Concert—O2 Arena	Young Voices Choir(Y5-6)	Parents/other schools
March	Spring Showcase	KSJ Orchestra KSJ Choir Soloists Show Choir	Parents/Junior school

March	Inaugural Primary School Choir Festival	School Choir	Choirs from 7 primary schools, parents, SWCHS choirs.
May	May Day Celebrations	All pupils in EY-Y2	Parents/Y3 pupils
July Quadrennially, took place this year.	Creative Arts Week	All Pupils EY-Y2	All Pupils EY-Y2
July	Summer Concert	Junior School Choir	Parents/Y2-5
July	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	Saffron Hall Y2	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.

Singing assemblies are run in each school at least fortnightly, and children are taught about the benefits of singing and being part of an ensemble.

We run a quadrennial 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 third 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.
- Jude is working to update the music progression, and ensuring that assessment is made possible through determining pupils' development as performers and composers. The aim is to have some clearer stage markers. Work will need to be undertaken to ensure that there is sufficient coverage of composition and performance. Some units of work are being rewritten to match changing cohorts and school intake. The aim is to begin to undertake some tuned WCET lower down the school in KS1 – introducing a limited number of notes on glockenspiels, for example.
- 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 continue to offer visit/s to elderly accommodation centres in Saffron Walden for Upper KS2 choir members to sing traditional carols.

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 tongue drums within Y5 compositional projects (Rainforest).
- **Purchase** a trolley to facilitate Jude and Lauren moving instruments around where required, particularly for Tuesday afternoons when Year 1s and Year 4s have music lessons – one of these year groups needs to have lessons within the main school rather than the Gilmour Room
- **Purchase** – new music stands, as many of the current fold up ones are no longer fit for purpose.

Next year’s planned WCET

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

Year 4—Recorder/ barred instruments (glockenspiels) /

Year 5—Recorder/ ukelele / tongue drums / Samba

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

- Continue to 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.

Begin to plan for the second Primary School Choir Festival with Laura Thomas if decided to repeat. One of the main difficulties was in paying the choir leader and then invoicing the other primary schools for their share of the cost. This would need to be looked at carefully.

Further information (optional)

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