

Music development plan summary: Shirley Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jo Tearle
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Southampton Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Shirley Junior School follows the music curriculum set out by Hamwic Education Trust. Lessons are taught by class teachers. Teaching is supported through specialist planning by music teachers from the Hamwic Education Trust. In school, teachers are supported with subject knowledge by the school's music lead.

All lessons begin with a 'minute of listening', promoting exposure to a wide range of types of music. The curriculum music units comprise of listening, performing and composing. Children have the opportunity to compose music on tuned and untuned percussion.

Singing lessons are taught in addition to the classroom curriculum, with song repertoire informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021). Singing lessons follow a structure of warm up, learning a skill song, then singing for pleasure.

Each year group has a selection of varied songs to learn in the skills section, including singing in a round, in parts and in another language. Each half term has a song that is learned to be sung together in whole school assemblies.

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.

Southampton Music Service offers music tuition in one-to-one and small group settings. Children are provided with instruments through the service which they take home for practice. Children who are identified as Pupil Premium may be able to receive free or reduced-cost music lessons. The school decides this on an individual basis, taking into account each child's specific learning needs.

Shirley Junior School offers a choir for all abilities from Year 3 to Year 6. This runs during a school lunch time and is led by class teachers. The choir performs at local and school events and partakes in events run by the Southampton Music Hub, particularly events celebrating music connected to Southampton.

Every two years, Y4, 5, and 6 children have the opportunity to take part in Young Voices, performing at the O2 Arena in London with thousands of other children.

After a year of musical instrument tuition, children are encouraged to join the school orchestra. This is run fortnightly by the Head of Music at Upper Shirley High School as part of our trust partnership.

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.

As part of our wider goal to build connection, children sing together in whole school assembly every week.

Y6 children visit the theatre to see a musical. This is done in the summer term as inspiration before they perform their own end of year production. The rest of the school get to enjoy a performance of the production before the evening shows to the parents.

Members of the school choir and orchestra perform alongside other children in the wider trust at the JEP Festival every other year. This is held at Central Hall, providing children with the experience of performing in front of a large audience.

On Remembrance Day, the whole school gathers at St James' Church in Shirley to perform songs from World War Two for grandparents in the local community. A trumpeter plays *The Last Post* live as part of the event.

All children perform a selection of songs to parents and families as part of the Christmas performance at the church too. Some of these songs are accompanied by a pianist.

A selection of Year 5 and 6 choir members attend a workshop from *The Sixteen*, a professional choral ensemble, culminating in a performance to a large audience and the opportunity to watch *The Sixteen* perform repertoire too. This workshop is funded by King Edward VI Secondary School.

In the future

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

The next step for music development at SJS is to introduce instrument learning to a whole year group as part of their curriculum. This would provide all children with the opportunity to learn the basics of an instrument, not only those having instrumental lessons.

Another development point is to increase the number of opportunities for children to witness live music performances, whether off-site or in school assemblies.

Further information (optional)

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.