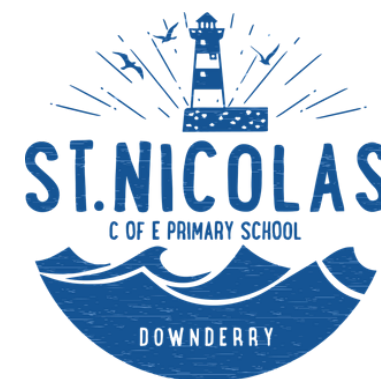


St Nicolas CE Primary School, Downderry



School Music Development Plan (2026–2028)

School Name: StNicolas CE Primary School, Downderry

Local Authority / Hub: Cornwall (Astone Music Hub / Cornwall Music Education Hub)

Number on Roll: 116pupils across 4 Mixed-Age Classes

Music Lead: Headteacher / Music Lead- Chrissy Gardiner

Published/Reviewed: Autumn 2026 | **Next Review:** Autumn 2027



1. Vision & Context

At St Nics CE Primary School, music is an essential part of our creative curriculum. Set in our coastal rural community of Downderry, we aim to inspire every child to develop a lifelong love of music, build creative confidence, and acquire musical skills and knowledge progressively from Preschool through to Year 6.

Contextual Design for Mixed-Age Classes

With 116 pupils structured into 4 mixed-age classes, our curriculum is organized on a **2-year rolling cycle** using **Charanga** (aligned with the Model Music Curriculum). This ensures complete coverage of the National Curriculum for Music without repetition, allowing pupils in mixed-year cohorts to build upon prior learning with increasing depth and complexity. Furthermore, we actively use music to broaden our pupils' cultural capital and reduce rural isolation through community performance.

Curriculum Music (Intent, Implementation & Impact)



Delivery & Timetabling

- **Curriculum Scheme:** Charanga Music Scheme (Model Music Curriculum pathway), enhanced with music technology tools like Chrome Music Lab for composition.
- **Time Allocation:** Weekly timetabled classroom music lessons (30–45 mins/week) supplemented by a dedicated weekly whole-school singing assembly.
- **Core Strands:** A spiral curriculum structured around Listening & Appraising (featuring diverse "Great Musicians"), Musical Activities (Games, Singing, Playing, Composing), and Performing.

Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) & Instrumental Provision

- **Strategy:** Every child at St Nics receives whole-class instrumental instruction from our music teacher Sally Butlin.
- **Rotation:** One dedicated mixed-age class each year undertakes a targeted whole-class instrumental unit (e.g., Ukulele, djembe drums, flute or Percussion) supported by instrument hire from the **Astone Music Hub**.
- **Progression:**
 - *EYFS / Key Stage 1:* Focus on pulse, rhythm, pitch, untuned percussion, and basic tuned glockenspiels.

- *Key Stage 2:* Whole-class instrumental units building technique, ensemble awareness, and basic notation reading.

Inclusion, Accessibility & Pupil Premium (PP)

- **Equity & PP Support:** Pupil Premium funding and Hub subsidies are prioritized to ensure 100% uptake for disadvantaged pupils for small-group tuition, 1-to-1 lessons, or instrument hire.
- **SEND Scaffolding:** Adaptations include graphic scores, simplified percussion setups (e.g., removing unused bars on glockenspiels for pentatonic work), and multi-sensory learning strategies.

Co-Curricular, Singing & Enrichment

Opportunities for pupils to sing, play, and progress outside core lesson time.

1. "Singing School" Culture

Singing is central to life at St Nics, supporting vocal health, posture, dynamics, and multi-part singing:

- **Weekly SingingWorship:** Focused vocal warm-ups, pitch-matching, and repertoire building.
- **School Choir:** A weekly after-school choir developing part-singing, diction, and performance confidence for school and community events.
- **Instrumental Ensembles:** Sally Butlin offers specialised 1:1 music tuition. We enable children to join these through allowing children to borrow our school instruments before they decide to buy their own.

2. Resource Management & Audit

- **Instrument Audit:** School-owned instruments are organized into families (woodwind, brass, strings, percussion) with clear storage and a central Music Display in the music room.
- **Hub Links:** Rental of specialist instrument sets from the Asone Music Hub for whole-class projects.



Musical Experiences & Performance Calendar 2026

Live performances, celebrations, and community engagement.

Every pupil at St Nics performs live multiple times a year, connecting with our local Downerry and wider coastal/rural community:

Event	Target Cohort	Musical Focus & Context
Harvest Festival	Whole School (EYFS–Y6)	Community worship, seasonal praise, and vocal expression. Classes also show instrumental performances.
Nativity	EYFS / Key Stage 1	Musical storytelling, solos, and simple percussion accompaniment.
KS2 Production (Y3/4)	Lower KS2	Musical theatre, singing in parts, and movement.
KS2 Production (Y5/6)	Upper KS2	Drama with advanced vocal arrangements and ensemble singing.
Community Outreach	School Choir	Performing for local residents, village events, elderly care settings, and local landmarks including the local church.
Regional & Trust Events	Choir / KS2	Trust-wide festivals (e.g., 'BarnaBash') where children will be able to listen to a variety of musicians. Taking children to the Theatre Royal to enjoy music and performance on a large stage.



Strategic Development Priorities (2026–2028)

This section satisfies Ofsted's focus on **subject leadership, staff development, inclusion, and measurable impact**.

Development priorities 2026 - 2027

Objective	Action	Who?	Impact measure	Resources	RAG
Increase staff confidence	CPD session on Charanga	Music Lead	100% of teachers feel confident in delivery of music	1 x staff PDM	
Broaden Horizons	Each week a composer/piece of music is shared with every class via a PPT. Book a live Performance.	Headteacher / teachers	Pupils can describe different families of instruments and genres.	PTA funding for performance	
Remove barriers (PP)	Identify PP pupils for funded instrumental tuition.	SEND/CO/Headteacher	100% uptake of music opportunities among disadvantaged cohorts.	Planning time/ PP funding/ school instruments	
High Profile Performance	Plan 'Barnabash' festival for our trust.	Headteacher and Trust staff team	Improve pupil confidence and sense of belonging	Planning time	

Long-Term Strategic Goals (2026–2028)

1. **Sustained Instrumental Rotation:** Maintain whole-class instrumental teaching so every pupil learns an instrument for at least two full terms during their time at St Nics by a specialist music teacher.
2. **Secondary Transition Pathways:** Partner with local secondary schools and the Asone Music Hub to build clear musical transition links for Year 6 leavers.
3. **Low-Stakes Assessment:** Embed informal assessment within Charanga to track pupil progression in listening, composing, and performing across mixed-age cohorts.

