Music development plan summary: Falmouth Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	14.09.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	10.07.2027
Name of the school music lead	Kerenza Burnett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hall for Cornwall (HfC) - Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Cornwall Music Service Trust

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.

Falmouth Primary Academy delivers a bespoke Music curriculum that aligns with the National Curriculum and incorporates elements of the Model Music Curriculum. It integrates music theory, historical context, and regular performance opportunities to develop pupils' musicality, including intonation, expression, and understanding of core musical elements.

Music is taught weekly from Year 1 to Year 6 through a 45-minute lesson led by the class teacher and a 15-minute whole-school singing assembly led by the Music Lead. In the Early Years, music is embedded within the curriculum through nursery rhymes and hands-on exploration of sounds and instruments, in line with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and Music Development Matters.

From Year 1 onwards, music units are carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills progressively. Each unit includes assessment checkpoints and a final POP Quiz to ensure key concepts are retained. Singing and musical vocabulary are consistently woven throughout all units.

The curriculum is inclusive, with appropriate scaffolding and adaptations to support all learners. Further details are available in the document Strategies for Supporting Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Music, accessible via the school website.

Curriculum planning and progression are overseen by the Music Lead, with class teachers adapting lessons to meet the needs of their pupils.

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.

At Falmouth Primary Academy, pupils benefit from a wide range of musical experiences throughout their time at school. Our well-established school choir (led by the school's Music Lead for the past eight years) was expanded two years ago to include children from EYFS and Key Stage 1, alongside our original Key Stage 2 choir. The full school choir meets weekly on Thursday mornings, while the KS2 choir also rehearses on Friday mornings, focusing on advanced vocal techniques such as harmonies.

Our choir regularly participates in local and national events, including the Oyster Festival, Sea Shanty Festival, Falmouth Lantern Parade, Carols at the Pavilions, and performances in local community Christmas markets and care homes. They have also performed at the Regional and National Music for Youth festivals, including a performance at Birmingham's Symphony Hall. Notably, they collaborated with the Gabrieli consort as part of 'A Grand Georgian Christmas' at Truro Cathedral in 2024 and are performing 'Mr Handel's Christmas Story' with them again this year (2026). Last year (November 2025) they performed on stage at the Hall for Cornwall with Cornish musician Will Keating.

Over recent years, we have maintained a strong partnership with the ASONE Music Hub, participating in events such as Choirfest, Songfest, and The Big Sing at the Hall for Cornwall. We have worked alongside the Cornwall Youth Choir and have also undertaken workshops and concerts arranged by the Cornwall Music Service Trust – last year performing with the Czech Children's Choir, Jitro. Our performance last year at the Cornwall Music Festival saw our KS2 choir earn the Morley Nancarrow Memorial Shield for winning their competitive category, alongside achieving the title of the 'Most Outstanding Junior Choir' from across the festival.

Peripatetic music lessons are offered through the Cornwall Music Service Trust, with weekly sessions in flute, violin, and piano on offer. These lessons are delivered by approved teachers and culminate in performances at school events. Lessons are funded either by parents or through available subsidies.

To enrich the curriculum, we welcome a variety of musical visitors throughout the year. These include international musicians through our collaboration with the Falmouth and Penryn Welcome Refugees Charity, as well as local artists such as Will Keating, representatives from the Cornwall Harp and Gurdy Festival, and vocal coaches from the previous ASONE Hub and Cornwall Music Service Trust.

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.

At Falmouth Primary Academy, all pupils engage in a rich variety of musical experiences throughout the year. Weekly singing assemblies bring the whole school together to learn songs that promote a sense of community and reflect our core values: Respect, Perseverance, and Teamwork. These assemblies also prepare children for performances within the school and the wider community.

Musical listening is embedded in both curriculum lessons and assemblies. Our music curriculum integrates oracy through structured listening activities, featuring a diverse range of genres, composers, cultures, and historical periods, supported by targeted discussion prompts.

Performance is a key aspect of our music provision. In addition to end-of-unit showcases, children perform throughout the year during assemblies and at seasonal events such as Harvest, the Oyster Festival, St Piran's Day, and the Sea Shanty Festival. Vocal performance units culminate in Christmas celebrations: EYFS pupils present a Nativity, Key Stage 1 children perform a musical or festive celebration, and Key Stage 2 pupils hold a carol concert at Penwerris Church in Falmouth. Year 6 pupils also stage a musical production in the summer term.

Instrumentalists perform regularly in assemblies and termly concerts, while choir members participate in local and regional festivals and events across Cornwall. To broaden pupils' exposure to live music, we host visiting musicians throughout the year. Collaborations with the Falmouth and Penryn Welcome Refugees charity and work with Gareth Churcher (Head of the Cornwall Music Service Trust) allow children to experience music from different cultures and instruments they may not otherwise encounter.

As part of our commitment to making live music accessible, the whole school attends a live musical performance each year -watching the Christmas pantomime at the Hall for Cornwall. Our Year 5 children experience a West End show as part of their London residential in March and, as of this year, our Year 3 children will be undertaking a visit to Bristol Hippodrome as part of their residential in the Summer.

In the future

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

Next steps:

- **Strengthen the embedding of the New Curriculum**: Our new bespoke music curriculum was introduced in September 2025 and supported by targeted CPD sessions for staff. This year will see the strengthening of this curriculum across the school.

- **Enhance the use of the dedicated music space in school**: Last year saw the creation of a designated music room to support lessons and rehearsals. This year will see the strengthening of this room being used by all year groups, peripatetic music teachers and for extra-curricular musical activities (such as the school choir).

- **Expand Instrumental Access:** Last year saw the purchase of a wide range of musical instruments for the music room, including a wealth of percussion instruments and 13 keyboards. This year will focus on working with the Hall for Cornwall as the leaders of the new music hub in Cornwall to secure funding to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument as part of whole class lessons.

- **Strengthen Partnerships**: This year will continue to focus on enhancing our collaboration with other schools both in our Academy Trust and wider, including Falmouth Secondary School – with the view to establish a Falmouth Primary Choir Alumni for past-pupils to broaden vocal opportunities for our current choir members.

- **Integrate Music Technology:** Last year saw the introduction of Music Technology within our new curriculum. This year will focus on enhancing our ICT provision to ensure this element is strengthened further to enrich teaching and learning.

Further information (optional)

As of September 2026 – The Hall for Cornwall (HfC) has been appointed by Arts Council England as Hub Lead Organisation (HLO) for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Music Hub.

As the new Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), they'll work closely with local schools, existing and new Hub partners, and the wider education, music, and culture sectors to deliver high-quality music education for children and young people.

Music Hubs enable young people to sing, play an instrument, create music and perform together in and out of the classroom. Under HfC's custodianship, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's Music Hub activities will foster young people's creativity and nurture their musical talent alongside progression opportunities for those who want to forge a career in music.