

Music development plan summary: Whitchurch Primary School and Nursery

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	3/10/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Elena Leutfeld
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Harrow Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

Music Curriculum:

All year groups, from Reception to Year 6, receive weekly whole-class music lessons delivered by specialist teachers, in line with our Music Curriculum Overview, which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum.

https://www.whitchurchprimary.harrow.sch.uk/serve_file/32641922

We partner with HMS, our local music hub, to support the delivery of the music curriculum. Pupils receive 30 minutes lessons per week in Years 1–3 and 45 minutes lessons per week in Years 4–6.

Our Music Curriculum is engaging and meaningful, designed to be inclusive for all pupils while developing core musicianship skills. Pupils are introduced to the four key areas of study: performance, composition, listening, and appraising. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, the focus is on singing, pulse, rhythm, and pitch. In Key Stage 2, pupils build on this foundation by developing their understanding of rhythm and pitch notation, participating in whole-class recorder, trumpet, and clarinet programmes, broadening their musical vocabulary, and exploring world music traditions such as African drumming, Indian music, and Latin American music.

Using a spiral and progressive approach, we aim to:

- Nurture each student's innate musical abilities
- Foster creativity and individual expression

- Encourage performance, teamwork and mutual respect
- Be appreciative of different music styles and traditions
- Become analytical when listening to music and learn to use subject specific vocabulary
- Highlight the importance of undertaking enrichment activities that can celebrate students' talents and interests
- Instill a lifelong love and appreciation for the art of music

SEND pupils are able to access the music curriculum through adapted strategies, including differentiated tasks, the use of suitable instruments, visual aids, and peer support. Communication with the class teachers and SEND team to further tailor provision to individual needs.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Instrumental Tuition:

Extra-curricular opportunities include instrumental tuition with visiting music teachers from Harrow Music Service. Paired or small-group lessons (up to three pupils) are available on piano, guitar, drum kit, singing, violin, cello, recorder, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and Indian instruments. Tuition takes place weekly in our two music studios, each featuring two digital pianos and a music board to support high-quality teaching and learning.

Pupils learning an instrument can borrow school instruments free of charge for the entire academic year. Pupil Premium children are offered a 50% discount on lesson fees, and a 10% discount is available for siblings.

ABRSM and Trinity instrumental exams are held termly, with pupils typically achieving up to Grade 5 by the end of Year 6.

Music Ensembles:

A variety of ensemble opportunities free of charge are available, including Mini Choir (Y1/2), Junior Choir (Y3/4), Senior Choir (Y5/6), Orchestra (Y4-6), Guitar Ensemble (Y5-6), Wind Band (Y5-6), Rock Band (Y5-6), and Percussion Ensemble (Y5-6).

Pupils join the choirs through audition and are invited to join the instrumental ensembles once they have reached at least Grade 1 level on their instrument. Rehearsals take place weekly in the Music Room.

Part C: Musical experiences

Music Assemblies:

All children participate in weekly singing assemblies and hymn practice led by the Director of Music, where they engage in a wide range of songs and vocal activities.

Events:

Concerts for ensembles and soloists of all ages and levels are organised termly and take place in our school hall, which is equipped with a new Kawai grand piano and a modern sound system. Our more advanced pupils also participate in Harrow Music Service Festivals, including the Guitar, Band, String, Recorder and Percussion Festivals. In addition, our choirs and ensembles are regularly invited to participate in Music Days hosted by independent schools such as North London Collegiate School (NLCS) and John Lyon School.

Participation in these events is free of charge.

Visits from professional musicians include performances and demonstrations by the HMS Staff Orchestra, the Grimsdyke Brass Band, and members of the National Youth Orchestra.

In the future

Planned Improvements:

- Mentoring and lesson observations for HMS and Whitchurch staff to share best practice in Music pedagogy and other practical subjects.
- Introduce Aural Club, Music Theory Club, and Music Aptitude Tests and Scholarships Club.
- Expand Year 1–3 ensembles (percussion and recorder groups).
- Introduce 1:1 instrumental lessons and invite non-HMS specialists for workshops and masterclasses.
- Phased over the next three academic years, ensuring alignment with the features of high-quality music provision outlined in the National Plan for Music.