

# Music development plan summary: Highfields Academy & Nursery, Nantwich

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	13.2.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kate Richards
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Love Music 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.

At Highfields Academy & Nursery, our music curriculum is informed by the guidance of the Model Music Curriculum and reflects our commitment to delivering a rich, inclusive and ambitious musical education for all pupils. Music is taught discretely across the school to ensure depth, rigour and clear progression. All pupils from EYFS to Year 6 receive a minimum of 60 minutes of dedicated music teaching per week.

Our curriculum for Key Stages 1 and 2 is built around the Charanga and Sing Up programmes. These provide a wide range of diverse repertoire, teaching approaches and musical traditions. Together they support a fully integrated approach to musical development, connecting singing, playing, improvising, composing, listening and appraising.

Units of work are organised under the elements Sing and Play, Listen, and Compose. Knowledge and skills progress clearly from year to year, with all musical strands interwoven to

create a spiral curriculum that revisits and deepens learning over time. Each lesson identifies the key knowledge pupils require to progress, ensuring full access for all learners.

### **Specialist Provision**

In Year 6, pupils participate in a specialist World Drumming programme delivered in partnership with the Love Music Trust. Each term, they study a different drumming tradition such as Djembe, Taiko or Salsa. Alongside practical skill development, pupils learn about the cultural origins and historical context of each tradition. Every term concludes with a performance for staff, pupils and parents, offering pupils a purposeful opportunity to share their learning.

### **Inclusion and Ambition for All**

Our curriculum is designed to be ambitious for every pupil, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Teachers maintain high expectations and the curriculum is not diluted for SEND learners. Instead, adaptations are planned according to individual need, enabling full participation in musical learning. These may include reducing demands on working memory, providing pre-teaching of vocabulary or offering additional visual or practical support.

For pupils with more complex needs, a personalised curriculum may be appropriate. Where needed, we use the Charanga Anyone Can Play (ACP) scheme, which offers accessible musical pathways while maintaining ambition and progression.

Each year group has a SEND adaptations overview for music provision, ensuring that planning and delivery remain inclusive and responsive to pupils' needs.

## **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 Highfields Academy & Nursery, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our co-curricular music programme offers pupils a wide range of opportunities to sing, play instruments and perform. These experiences nurture a lifelong enjoyment of music and enable pupils to continue progressing along their musical journey.

Singing Assemblies

Each week, pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 come together for singing assemblies. These sessions enable children to enjoy collective singing, develop vocal confidence and strengthen the sense of community within the school.

#### After-School Choir Club

Our after-school choir club, open to Key Stage 2 pupils, provides children with the opportunity to extend their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony and participate in ensemble music-making. The choir performs at school events throughout the year, helping pupils grow as confident and expressive performers.

#### Seasonal Performances

Seasonal performances are an important part of our musical culture.

- Reception and Key Stage 1 present a musical Nativity at Christmas.
- Years 3 and 4 perform a Christmas concert for families and the wider community.

These events allow pupils to rehearse, collaborate and perform, building confidence and musical discipline.

#### Love Music Trust SingFest

Year 4 pupils take part in SingFest, a collaborative singing project delivered through the Love Music Trust. Pupils participate in both online and live rehearsals before performing in a combined concert with other primary and secondary schools. Families are invited to attend, providing an aspirational large-scale performance experience.

#### Rocksteady Music Lessons

Our partnership with Rocksteady Music provides an exciting modern dimension to our offer. Through weekly band-based sessions, pupils learn to sing and play instruments such as drums, keyboards and electric guitars. These sessions introduce children to contemporary genres and develop ensemble skills, creativity and confidence.

Each term, one bursary place is available, enabling a pupil to access Rocksteady lessons at no cost. This ensures the opportunity is accessible and inclusive. Rocksteady bands perform each term for families and the school community, giving pupils a platform to celebrate their progress.

#### Instrumental Tuition

Additional instrumental tuition is available for pupils who wish to deepen their musicianship beyond classroom lessons. Currently, tuition is available in:

- Piano
- Drums
- Guitar
- Brass

These lessons help pupils build technical skills, explore personal musical interests and prepare for further progression in music.

## 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 Highfields Academy & Nursery, we believe that musical learning extends far beyond the classroom. We offer a wide range of events, performances and experiences that enrich pupils' musical development, build confidence and strengthen our school community. These opportunities allow pupils to apply their skills in real contexts, appreciate the role of music in culture and society, and enjoy meaningful performance experiences.

### In-School Opportunities

- Christmas Singing Concert: Each year, pupils participate in a whole-school Christmas singing event, giving them the chance to showcase their learning and celebrate together through music.
- KS1 Nativity: The Key Stage 1 Nativity is an established tradition that gives younger pupils an opportunity to rehearse and perform songs, developing confidence and early performance skills.
- Class Sharing Events: Throughout the year, parents, grandparents and guardians are invited into school to watch class-sharing sessions. These often include musical or dance performances and give pupils the chance to present their learning in an informal and supportive environment.
- Year 6 Leavers' Performance: As part of their celebration of primary school, Year 6 pupils take part in a leavers' performance. This provides them with an opportunity to prepare a substantial musical or dramatic piece, working collaboratively and reflecting their growth over time.
- Professional Theatre Production: Each year, pupils watch a professional theatre or musical production in school. This exposes them to high-quality performance arts and supports cultural development.

### Out-of-School Opportunities

- Love Music Trust SingFest: Year 4 pupils take part in this collaborative large-scale performance event, singing alongside other pupils from local primary and secondary schools.
- Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church, Nantwich: Pupils participate in singing Christmas carols

within the local community, helping them connect with local traditions and experience performing in a formal setting.

- CPD hosted by the Love Music Trust: Staff regularly attend music-focused professional development provided by the Love Music Trust. This ensures that teachers stay up to date with current best practice and enhances the quality of musical provision across the school.

## **In the future**

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

Highfields Academy & Nursery is committed to continually enhancing the quality, breadth and impact of its music provision. The following priorities outline the planned developments for the coming years, focusing on strengthening partnerships, enriching curriculum experiences and supporting staff to deliver the highest standards of musical education.

### **Strengthening Partnerships and Wider Opportunities**

- Continue to liaise closely with the Local Music Hub to gather information about additional musical opportunities available to pupils outside of school hours, including evening and weekend activities, ensembles and workshops. This will enable us to signpost pupils to further pathways for musical development.
- Work collaboratively with other schools within the Multi-Academy Trust to share expertise, exchange ideas and provide mutual support in the development of high-quality music provision.

### **Developing Curriculum Provision**

- Introduce Year 5 ukulele lessons delivered by the Love Music Trust, expanding the range of instrumental tuition available in school and supporting pupils in building ensemble skills, technical proficiency and musical confidence.
- Ensure curriculum coverage remains robust and progressive by monitoring video evidence of lessons and gathering pupil voice feedback. This will support the music lead in identifying strengths, next steps and areas for refinement.

### **Supporting and Developing Staff Expertise**

- Provide staff CPD focused on the music development plan, curriculum expectations and effective teaching approaches. This will ensure that all staff feel confident in delivering the music curriculum.
- Offer ongoing support and training to improve curriculum delivery and enhance pupils' musical experiences across the school.
- Lead staff meetings and workshops that focus on practical strategies for teaching music, enabling teachers to build confidence in lesson delivery and progression.

# Further information (optional)

Charanga scheme of work for Reception to Year 6



charanga-overview-from-reception-to-year



About The Scheme - Anyone Can Play.pdf

Anyone Can Play scheme of work