Holly Grove Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary

2026-2027

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01.09.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.09.2027
Name of the school music lead	Courtney Fourie
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Eve Taylor
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Lancashire Specialist School Music Network Burnley Youth Theatre More Music Little Voices

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.

Welcome to our vibrant music curriculum where every note is a step towards musical excellence! At Holly Grove, we believe in nurturing a love for music in every child, fostering their creativity, and honing their skills to become confident performers and enthusiasts. Our comprehensive music programme is designed to engage children at every level of their musical journey, offering a diverse range of experiences and opportunities.

Music is taught weekly across all year groups, ensuring children receive at least one hour of timetabled curriculum music throughout the academic year. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to build progressively year on year, developing musical knowledge, performance skills, creativity and confidence in line with the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021).

Live Music

Children experience the magic of live music through performances by professional musicians, child ensembles, and visiting artists. Through partnerships with Little Voices, Burnley Youth Theatre, More Music and the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network, pupils benefit from specialist workshops and live performance experiences that broaden their exposure to different musical and performance styles. During 2026-2027 we will actively seek further grant-funded opportunities with More Music and other providers to increase the number and range of inclusive music projects available to pupils.

Learning to Play Instruments

From the electronic keyboard to the rhythmic energy of the drums, our music curriculum offers children the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments. Every child builds upon their skills year upon year to access a wide range of instruments during their time at Holly Grove. Whole-class instrumental learning is supported by our local Music Hub and enriched through collaboration with More Music and the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network.

Music Technology

Children explore the exciting world of music technology and production through hands-on projects and interactive workshops. Pupils learn to compose, arrange, and produce music using cutting-edge software and equipment, including resources provided through our local Music Hub and supported by the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network's accessible music library, ensuring inclusive access for all learners.

Built on Prior Skills and Knowledge

Our music curriculum is carefully sequenced to build upon children's prior skills and knowledge, providing seamless progression from one level to the next. Partnerships with specialist organisations ensure staff development, shared expertise and high-quality musical outcomes for all pupils.

Singing

At Holly Grove, we believe in the power of song to uplift spirits and bring people together. Singing is embedded throughout school life — in music lessons, assemblies, performances and special events. Our collaboration with Little Voices enhances vocal technique, communication, confidence and performance skills. Selected pupils will also work towards LAMDA Communication examinations through the Little Voices programme during 2026-2027.

Listening and Appraising

Children listen to a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions. Through structured discussion and peer reflection, pupils appraise music thoughtfully, developing critical thinking skills and identifying key musical elements they have learned.

Our curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all learners and tailored to each individual need. Through the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network and its accessible music library, we ensure appropriate adaptations, resources and specialist support are available where needed.

Lesson Structure

Each music lesson follows a consistent structure to ensure progression, familiarity and high-quality musical learning:

1. Listening and Appraising
Children begin each lesson by listening to a carefully selected piece of music. Each week has a different appraisal focus (e.g. tempo, dynamics, pitch, rhythm, texture). Children respond through discussion, movement, drawing, colour association or performance-based responses.

Key appraisal questions include:

- What instruments can you hear?
- What instrument family do they belong to?
- How does the music make you feel?
- What could this music be used for?
- If this were in a film, what might be happening?

2. Instrument Introduction and Skill Development
Children are introduced to the focus instrument, including:

- Instrument name
- How to hold and handle correctly
- Developing steady beat and pulse
- Understanding tempo and rhythm
- Producing clear tone

3. Composition and Performance
Children compose using the skills discussed in each lesson and perform their compositions at the end of the session. Performance is embedded in every lesson to build confidence and ensemble awareness.

4. Singing
Singing is incorporated into each half term. Children learn at least one song per half term to perform during assembly. We utilise the Ridgewood “Musical Hands” video resources and Singing hands to support vocal learning and inclusive participation.

5. Reflection and Calm Ending
Each lesson ends with a calming listening piece selected by a “Musician of the Week,” encouraging reflection and developing pupil voice in musical choices.

Listening and Appraising Progression

Each half term focuses on a different musical genre, ensuring broad cultural exposure:

Term Focus	Genres Covered
Autumn 1	Classical
Autumn 2	Musical Theatre
Spring 1	World Music
Spring 2	Jazz
Summer 1	Dance
Summer 2	Decades of Pop Music

Examples of Listening Repertoire by Year Group

- **EYFS**: Bach – *Goldberg Variations*; South American music; Louis Armstrong; 1950s pop
- **Year 1** – Katie's Class: Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik; Gamelan (Indonesia); Ella Fitzgerald; 1960s pop.
- **Additional Year 1 class** follows its own complementary listening pathway including Claudio Monteverdi, Shrek, K-Pop, Frank Sinatra – Fly Me to the Moon, Bastille and 1960s music.
- **Year 2**: Beethoven – *Symphony No.5*; Australian music; Miles Davis; 1970s pop
- **Year 3**: Tchaikovsky – *Nutcracker*; Indian music; John Coltrane; 1980s pop
- **Year 4**: Prokofiev – *Lieutenant Kijé*; Chinese music; Duke Ellington; 1990s pop
- **Year 5**: Vaughan Williams – *Fantasia on Greensleeves*; African music; Dizzy Gillespie; 2000s pop
- **Year 6**: Stravinsky – *The Rite of Spring*; British Folk; Charlie Parker; 2010s pop

This progression ensures pupils experience a broad, diverse and culturally rich music curriculum.

Key Musical Vocabulary

The following musical elements are explicitly taught and revisited each half term:

- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Pitch
- Duration
- Texture
- Rhythm
- Beat
- Pulse
- Timbre

Vocabulary is embedded through listening, performance and composition activities.

Instrumental Progression by Year Group

Our performing and composing curriculum is structured to ensure clear instrumental progression. In 2026-2027 this includes two Year 1 classes with differentiated but complementary pathways so that the expanded Year 1 cohort can access appropriate SEND-focused musical progression:

EYFS – Percussion

Exploring a range of percussion instruments including bells, shakers, scrapers, agogo bells and tambourines. Focus on rhythm and steady beat.

Year 1 – Katie's Class: Boomwhackers

- Holding instruments correctly
- Understanding pitch through colour coding
- Playing together (start/stop)
- Building from one note to four notes
- Performing simple songs as a group

Year 1 – Samantha's Class: Strings and Accessible Music Technology

- Exploring a range of string instruments and how they make sound
- Designing and making a simple string instrument
- Exploring Orba and accessible digital music technology
- Developing intentional musical control using accessible instruments
- Introducing the Auris 7-string lyre and contributing to class chord playing through each pupil's most appropriate access method

Year 2 – Adam's Class Glockenspiels

- One note ensemble work
- Directed playing
- Building from 2 to 5 notes
- Performing simple melodies such as "When the Saints Go Marching In"

Year 3 – Laura's/Josh's Class Keyboards

- Ensemble note playing
- Directed playing
- Building from 2 to 5 notes
- Performing simple melodies

Year 4 – Leah's/Courtney's Class Instrument Creation and Music Technology

- Creating own instruments
- Exploring everyday sound sources
- Introduction to string and blowing instruments
- Music technology composition
- Orchestra-style ensemble experiences

Year 5 – Julie's/Jenny's Class Djembe Drums

- Developing steady beat
- Alternating hands
- Playing two contrasting rhythms
- Ensemble timing and coordination

Year 6 – Michael's/Libby's Class Ukulele

- Strumming techniques
- Plucking and finger picking
- Holding down frets
- Little Voices – specialist vocal coaching, communication, performance skills and progression towards LAMDA Communication examinations for selected pupils
- Writing and performing original songs

These partnerships strengthen both quality and inclusivity across our music provision and create clear routes into performance, communication, creative arts and wider cultural experiences.

Partnerships Supporting Curriculum Music

- Little Voices works with classes across the year to provide focused communication, vocal coaching and performance development. During 2026-2027, selected upper-school pupils will receive targeted preparation for LAMDA Communication examinations, giving pupils an accredited opportunity to demonstrate progress in speaking, communication and performance.

- Burnley Youth Theatre provides class-based specialist sessions across the academic year, with the 2026-2027 timetable extending opportunities across Reception to Year 6. Sessions develop stagecraft, musical theatre techniques, confidence, communication and expressive performance skills.

- The Lancashire Specialist School Music Network further supports curriculum delivery through professional development and access to an accessible instrument and resource library, ensuring inclusive participation for all pupils. We will also strengthen our work with More Music by identifying and applying for suitable grants so that pupils can access additional inclusive music-making, workshops, projects and live music experiences.

These partnerships strengthen both quality and inclusivity across our music provision.

Specialist Curriculum Enhancement

Each class works with Little Voices for an intensive programme delivered for one hour per week during a designated week within a term. This provides focused vocal coaching and performance development.

Each class also works with Burnley Youth Theatre for one hour per week across a half term, developing stagecraft, musical theatre techniques and expressive performance skills.

The Lancashire Specialist School Music Network further supports curriculum delivery through professional development and access to an accessible instrument and resource library, ensuring inclusive participation for all pupils.

Other documents that you might find useful to refer to are linked below:

- OFSTED Research Review in Music
- National Curriculum for Music KS1&2
- National Curriculum for Music KS3
- HYPERLINK "https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974366/Model_Music_Curriculum_Full.pdf" Model Music Curriculum KS1-3

Pupils can access additional instrumental opportunities through our partnership with Lancashire Music Hub and More Music. Vocal tuition, communication and performance coaching are enriched through Little Voices, with selected pupils in 2026-2027 working towards LAMDA Communication examinations.

Part B: Extra- Curricular Music and Enrichment

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.

Holly Grove offers Signing Stars, an inclusive signing choir open to pupils across key stages. Children have opportunities to perform in school concerts, community events and collaborative performances with Burnley Youth Theatre and More Music, developing communication, stage presence and ensemble skills. We will seek grant-funded projects with More Music to widen these opportunities further during 2026-2027.

In addition to curriculum music, Holly Grove provides a range of opportunities for pupils to further develop their musical interests outside of lesson time.

Pupils are encouraged to continue developing their musical and communication skills through rehearsals, performances, LAMDA Communication examination preparation and creative arts projects. Performance opportunities take place termly, allowing children to showcase their learning and build confidence. External partnerships provide pathways for continued musical engagement beyond school, including the Lancashire Music Sharing Event and potential grant-funded More Music projects.

Pupils can access additional instrumental lessons through our partnership with Lancashire Music Hub and More Music. Vocal tuition and performance coaching opportunities are enriched through Little Voices.

Instrument loans and adapted resources are available through the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network's accessible library, ensuring equitable access for all pupils.

Choir and Ensembles

Holly Grove offers a school choir open, Signing Stars to pupils across key stages. Children have opportunities to perform in school concerts, community events and collaborative performances with Burnley Youth Theatre and More Music, developing stage presence and ensemble skills.

Progression and Performance

Pupils are encouraged to continue developing their musical skills through rehearsals, performances and creative arts projects. Performance opportunities take place termly, allowing children to showcase their learning and build confidence. External partnerships provide pathways for continued musical engagement beyond school such as the Lancashire Music Sharing event.

We are committed to ensuring that cost is not a barrier to participation and support families where needed.

Part C: Musical Performances and 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.

Music is a vibrant and valued part of life at Holly Grove. Each year, we stage productions within our school for both lower and upper school pupils. Our lower school children perform in the annual Christmas production, while upper school pupils take part in a Summer production. These performances incorporate a wide range of musical elements and provide all participating pupils with the opportunity to sing, perform and develop their confidence on stage.

Termly performances provide valuable opportunities for pupils to perform to their peers, families and the wider community. We also collaborate with external organisations, including Burnley Youth Theatre, Little Voices and More Music, to enrich performance quality and provide pupils with professional engagement and expertise. LAMDA Communication examinations add a further recognised progression opportunity for selected pupils.

Singing in Assembly

All pupils experience live music at least once each year through visiting musicians, specialist workshops and external performances. Our partnerships with More Music, the local Music Hub and Lancashire Specialist School further enhance these opportunities. In 2026-2027 we aim to secure additional More Music grant funding to expand access to high-quality, inclusive live music and creative music-making experiences.

Our signing choir, *Signing Stars*, performs weekly during assemblies, sharing a range of songs they have learned. This inclusive group provides pupils with meaningful opportunities to combine music and sign language in performance. In addition, our school choir visits a local care home on a half-termly basis to perform for residents, providing

pupils with valuable opportunities to engage with the wider community and experience the joy of sharing music beyond the school setting.

We are committed to continually strengthening our music provision. Planned developments for 2026-2027 and beyond include:

Embedding the expanded curriculum for the additional Year 1 class (Samantha's Class), including its dedicated string and accessible music technology pathway

Developing LAMDA Communication examination opportunities through Little Voices and using outcomes to celebrate progression in communication, confidence and performance

Increasing opportunities to work with More Music by identifying and applying for suitable grants for inclusive projects, workshops, performances and live music experiences

Increasing use of music technology and accessible resources while continuing to ensure at least one hour of curriculum music per week

Maintaining and developing termly performance, ensemble, choir and community opportunities across the whole school

We are committed to continually strengthening our music provision. Planned developments include:

- Holly Grove is committed to providing high-quality, inclusive and enriching music education for all pupils. Our 2026-2027 music development plan is supported through strong partnerships with our local Music Hub, Little Voices, Burnley Youth Theatre, Lancashire Specialist School Music Network and More Music. These partnerships enhance curriculum delivery, provide specialist expertise, widen performance opportunities and ensure access to high-quality musical resources. This year, our provision also reflects the additional Year 1 class, Samantha's Class, the introduction and development of LAMDA Communication examination opportunities, and a stronger focus on securing grant-funded work with More Music.
- Through these collaborations, pupils benefit from live performances, specialist workshops, vocal and communication coaching, instrumental tuition and inclusive music-making opportunities. Our annual professional musical theatre showcase delivered by M&M Productions further strengthens our provision by ensuring all pupils experience high-quality live theatre in school.
- Further embedding partnerships with Little Voices, Burnley Youth Theatre, Lancashire Specialist School Music Network and More Music
- Continuing to ensure at least one hour of curriculum music per week.

- Maintaining and developing termly performance opportunities

Further information

Holly Grove is committed to providing high-quality, inclusive and enriching music education for all pupils. Our music development plan is supported through strong partnerships with our local Music Hub, Little Voices, Burnley Youth Theatre, Lancashire Specialist School Music Network, and More Music. These partnerships enhance curriculum delivery, provide specialist expertise, widen performance opportunities and ensure access to high-quality musical resources, including the Lancashire Specialist School Music Network's accessible music library.

Through these collaborations, pupils benefit from live performances, specialist workshops, vocal coaching, instrumental tuition and inclusive music-making opportunities. Our annual professional musical theatre showcase delivered by M&M **Productions** further strengthens our provision by ensuring all pupils experience high-quality live theatre in school. You can find their website here: https://www.magicoftheatre.com/

Parents and carers seeking further information about music opportunities in and beyond school can refer to the Department for Education's guide for parents and young people on how to get involved in music and access additional support.

DfE Guide for Parents and Young People (Music Education) – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people

Our local Music Hub also publishes a local plan for music education, which outlines regional opportunities, progression routes and additional support available to children and young people. https://www.lancashiremusichub.co.uk/files/2024/09/FInal-LMH-IDEA-Strategy-December-2023.pdf

- **Little Voices** – https://littlevoices.org.uk
- **Burnley Youth Theatre** – https://www.burnleyyouththeatre.org
- **Lancashire Music Hub** – https://www.lancashiremusichub.co.uk/site/
- **More Music** – https://www.moremusic.org.uk

For further details about Holly Grove's music curriculum, co-curricular opportunities or musical experiences, please visit our school website or contact the school office.