

Music development plan summary: Heathfield Primary School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emma Dicken
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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 Heathfield Primary School, music is an integral part of the curriculum, taught consistently from the Foundation Stage through to Year 6. Our aim is to foster a deep appreciation and understanding of music by developing pupils' knowledge, skills, and creativity. A wide range of teaching approaches are employed to engage students, including movement and dance to music, whole-class activities to promote teamwork, and more focused small group and individual tasks to cater to varying levels of ability.

The curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that each year builds upon the previous one, allowing pupils to progressively develop their musical talents. From basic rhythm and melody in the early years to more complex compositions and performances in later years, students are encouraged to explore a variety of musical genres and instruments. Teachers collaborate closely to ensure a seamless progression in musical learning, providing every pupil with the opportunity to expand their skills and confidence in music as they move through the school.

We collaborate with our Trust secondary school, making use of their music specialists in developing and refining our curriculum. Additionally, we ensure our music curriculum aligns with the national curriculum.

Our music curriculum enables:

- Pupils to enhance their performance skills by learning to play both tuned and untuned instruments, singing a wide range of songs, and rehearsing and performing in groups.
- Pupils to develop their composition abilities by creating musical patterns, exploring and organising sounds, and learning different methods of recording their work.
- Pupils to analyse and compare different sounds, explore musical concepts, and make improvements to their work, strengthening their appraisal skills.
- Pupils to improve their listening abilities by focusing more intently, internalising, and recalling sounds.

Teachers plan their lessons following our structured music curriculum, using the Charanga music scheme. This scheme follows a half-termly focus to help teachers engage all pupils effectively in music lessons. These lessons offer a variety of

activities, including those led by teachers as well as opportunities for children to take the lead and explore music independently, encouraging both guided learning and creativity. Each unit of work in our music curriculum is designed with a clear musical focus, enabling pupils to make steady progress throughout their primary education. The Charanga scheme supports this with carefully structured lessons that build key skills in performing, composing, and appraising, ensuring well-rounded musical development.

Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are provided with tailored support based on their individual requirements. For instance, accommodations like ear defenders are available for those sensitive to sound during louder lessons. Teachers differentiate instruction and adapt planning to ensure all pupils are challenged appropriately, regardless of their abilities.

At Heathfield, we recognise the profound impact that music has on young children, not only in terms of their development but also in the joy it brings to their everyday learning. Music is a powerful tool that fosters creativity, self-expression, and emotional well-being. We strive to create an environment where children can explore and appreciate the beauty of music, understanding its role in enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional growth. By embedding music into their early education, we aim to inspire a lifelong appreciation for the arts while nurturing their confidence and curiosity.

Sessions include work around developing an awareness of rhythm and beat. Children learn notation and are able to read simple music. They are taught musical terms and are expected to use these in discussing music they are reading and playing/singing. Children sing songs and have opportunities to refine and perform music to a wider audience of their peers and/or parents.

All pupils receive 40 to 45 minutes of music instruction each week. In Year 4, students benefit from specialised music lessons led by a teacher from the Birmingham Music Education Hub. During these sessions, they are taught to play a musical instrument called the Nuvo Dood, giving them hands-on experience with instrumental learning and performance.

Part B: Extra-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.

We offer specialised music tuition for our Year 5 and Year 6 electives, where pupils have the opportunity to learn to play the Nuvo Dood or Nuvo Clarineo. These instrumental lessons are delivered by a music specialist from the Birmingham Music Education Hub, ensuring pupils receive expert guidance in developing their skills and musical

understanding. The sessions provide a structured learning experience that enhances both their technical ability and overall appreciation of music.

In addition to this, we had arranged for an external music company to perform an assembly in July 2024, encouraging pupils to sign up for one-to-one tuition. While initial uptake for this offering has been lower than expected, we are still committed to working with the company to provide group sessions that will motivate more pupils to participate in instrumental learning. We are also actively exploring funding options to support and expand this provision, making it more accessible to our pupils.

To further enrich the musical experiences at our school, we are planning to launch an after-school choir club. This initiative aims to provide additional opportunities for pupils to engage with music, helping them to strengthen their performance skills and gain more experience in group singing. Through this, we hope to offer a broader platform for musical development, encouraging confidence and fostering a lifelong love for 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.

We hold a weekly singing assembly for all pupils, where they learn and perform a wide range of traditional and modern songs. To build confidence and ensure mastery, we follow a structured timetable that encourages repetition, which not only brings enjoyment but also helps pupils develop their musical skills.

Our school choir meets regularly for practice and has proudly performed at a variety of significant events. These include The Heathfield Awards Evening, where pupils showcased their talents to a large audience, and Trust conferences, where they represented the school with their musical performances. Within the school, the choir participates in celebration assemblies, sharing their progress with their peers. Additionally, they perform carol singing during Christmas, spreading festive cheer within the community. These experiences help build the children's confidence and experience in performing live to different audiences.

At the end of each half-term, children demonstrate what they've learned by either singing or playing an instrument they have practised over the previous 5-6 weeks. These performances, which take place in assemblies or for smaller groups, allow pupils to develop their stage presence before performing for larger audiences, such as the whole school or their families, helping them gain confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

Importantly, all of our music provision, including participation in the choir and any elective music lessons, is offered free of charge. Furthermore, the music subject lead continues to seek out opportunities for live performances and arranges visits to local concerts, enhancing the overall musical experience for all our pupils.

In the future

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

For the academic year 2024-2025, we are planning several exciting initiatives to enhance our music programme and provide enriching opportunities for our pupils. Through our partnership with the Birmingham Music Education Hub, we aim to offer children the chance to participate in area ensembles. These group performances will help them develop confidence in playing or singing as part of an ensemble, improving their ability to collaborate musically while deepening their enjoyment of performing.

This year, we will also introduce the practice of singing our chosen school songs at the start of each assembly or performance. This regular feature will help foster a sense of community, allow pupils to gain confidence in performing in front of their peers, and reinforce their vocal skills.

Additionally, we are launching an after-school choir club to further develop the singing abilities of our pupils. The club will focus on strengthening vocal techniques and preparing for various performances throughout the year, both in school and at external events. This will provide pupils with a more focused setting to refine their singing and explore new musical material.

Furthermore, we are committed to sourcing as many opportunities as possible for our students to experience live music performances. This will include both in-school performances and excursions to external events, such as concerts at venues like the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. We are also exploring the possibility of accessing live music performances online, ensuring that pupils can experience the richness of professional music in a variety of formats.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.