

Music Development Plan Summary



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Elizabeth McKay
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Water Primary School, the music curriculum is thoughtfully designed and delivered through the Charanga Music Scheme, which fully meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). This scheme offers a spiral curriculum that revisits key musical skills and knowledge progressively, allowing children to build upon prior learning with increasing depth. The curriculum aims to nurture children's musicality and foster a lifelong love of music by engaging them in performing, listening, composing, and exploring the history and cultural contexts of music from around the world. Due to the school operating a mixed class system, the music

curriculum is organised in a rolling programme. This is 3 years for EYFS, Year 1 AND Year 2 and Year 3/4/5 however year 6 are taught on their own cycle. Music is taught for one hour weekly. Each class have the opportunity to perform songs or music learnt in special assemblies through the year.

Throughout their time at Water Primary, children develop essential musical skills including singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, improvisation, and composition. The curriculum places strong emphasis on the inter-related dimensions of music - pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and notation - enabling children to understand and express musical concepts fluently. Music lessons are delivered weekly, usually lasting an hour, with a blend of discrete lessons and focused music days to enrich learning experiences.

The curriculum is inclusive and carefully adapted to meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND. Supportive strategies such as extra time, adapted instruments, and sensory accommodations ensure full participation. Assessment is ongoing, with learning intentions and success criteria clearly communicated. Pupils' progress is evaluated through a combination of formative assessment, self and peer feedback, and recorded final performances, informing teaching and wider school development.

In EYFS, music is taught both discretely and through continuous provision, supporting early learning goals and personal development. The school also implements the DfE's Model Music Curriculum recommendation by providing whole-class instrumental lessons, using glockenspiels and keyboards, to develop expertise and confidence in playing, improvisation, and composition. Year 6 pupils benefit from specialist music tuition, further advancing their skills.

A wide range of resources including percussion instruments, keyboards, African drums, song-books, and music technology apps on school iPads support the curriculum delivery, promoting accessibility and engagement for all children.

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.

Water Primary School provides rich co-curricular music opportunities that extend learning beyond the classroom and engage children in wider musical communities. Pupils participate in the nationally recognised Young Voices event, where they rehearse and perform a varied repertoire alongside thousands of other children at a large city arena, offering a unique collective music-making experience.

The school choir is active throughout the year, performing at special events within the school and the local community. Small-scale performances strengthen community links, with children singing at local venues such as churches and care homes, thereby fostering a sense of belonging and contribution beyond the school gates.

These activities not only enhance pupils' confidence and performance skills but also encourage teamwork, leadership, and social development, reflecting the school's vision of fostering happiness, health, and opportunity through music. The singing sessions and choirs are free of charge for families.

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 Water Primary School, music is an integral part of the school culture and daily life. Pupils sing together weekly during assemblies, fostering community spirit and shared enjoyment. Throughout the year, music features prominently in key celebrations such as Christmas, Harvest, Easter, and special assemblies including the leavers' assembly, where children showcase their musical talents.

Year 5 and 6 pupils organise an end-of-year performance, while younger children in EYFS and KS1 present nativity plays, providing meaningful opportunities for creative expression and confidence building. Music is also strategically used to support behaviour management, with calming music played during lessons to create a focused learning environment as well as to support transitions in and out of assemblies.

The school curriculum embraces musical diversity, teaching children about various musical styles and songs linked to religious and cultural festivals, supporting respect and appreciation for global traditions. Music is incorporated across subjects where possible, enriching the wider curriculum. The school values the talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders, who contribute specialist tuition and support for clubs and enrichment activities. Parents and carers actively engage in supporting music events, strengthening the home-school partnership in nurturing children's musical development.

In the future

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

Looking ahead, Water Primary School aims to broaden the range of musical instruments available to children, enhancing their opportunities for exploration and mastery. The school plans to introduce after-school music clubs focused on instrumental tuition, providing additional structured time for pupils to develop technical skills and deepen their musical interests.

These developments align with the school's vision of empowering every child to achieve their full potential in a nurturing, family atmosphere where happiness and opportunity flourish.

Potential next steps:

- Conduct a needs assessment to identify which instruments and resources would most benefit the children and complement the existing curriculum.
- Seek partnerships with local music providers or peripatetic teachers to support the delivery of after-school clubs and broaden expertise.
- Explore funding opportunities, including grants and community sponsorship, to support the purchase of new instruments and the expansion of extracurricular provision.

Further information (optional)

CPD - We value the importance of quality first teaching and recognise the need for teachers to have a strong subject knowledge in music. Ongoing CPD is provided to teachers in the form of teacher videos for each music unit throughout the scheme.