

Derry Hill C of E Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary



Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	07.10.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	30.09.25
Name of the school music lead	Emma Asfaw
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hayley Roberts
Name of local music hub	Wiltshire Music Connect: Calne and Melksham Cluster
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Wiltshire Music for Schools Rock Steady Luke Gittings

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 the opportunities that children get to perform and share their music.

Our school curriculum for Music is included in the Long-Term planning documents for each class, which can be found on the school website, with more detailed information provided in the individual class Medium Term plans, which are uploaded to the class pages on the school website at the start of each term. The planning covers one 1-hour session a week for each class, although some teachers may combine 2 lessons into a longer session once every other week, as this then gives the children longer to develop ideas when composing or to perfect a performance.

The curriculum is being re-written this academic year by our Music Subject Lead, Mrs Asfaw, to link it more directly to class topics and themes. This was agreed within the

school to be more motivating for the children and provides the opportunity to build greater understanding of the historical and cultural background of the music being studied. Mrs Asfaw has a degree in Music and a PGCE specialism in Music.

The Department for Education Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) informs the planning of our curriculum, which includes all aspects of Music Education: Listening, Performing (both through singing and playing instruments), Composing and Awareness of the Historical and Cultural context of the music.

Each main topic lasts an academic term, meaning that children cover 6 topics in each school year, with a progression of skills and knowledge spanning from EYFS up to year 6. The majority of topics include the following elements, although some topics give greater emphasis to a certain area:

- Learning a song as a class, building in singing in two or three parts once they have mastered singing in unison.
- Learning to play a tune or accompaniment to a song, using glockenspiels or ukuleles.
- Listening to, and discussing features of, key pieces of music covering the Western Classical Music Tradition, Popular Music styles and Music from other cultures and countries including India, China, South America and Africa.
- Learning key musical terminology that they can use to describe music to others.
- Composing different elements or types of music, following a model or structure.
- Introducing different methods of recording music (graphic scores, letter names, rhythmic notation and staff (pitch) notation).
- Performing their song / instrumental piece / composition to their class and / or producing a recording of their music.
- Reflecting on their music making and using musical language to say what they did well or would try to improve.

Every class has access to a range of percussion instruments as well as a set of glockenspiels, some wooden xylophones and a class set of ukuleles. Each KS2 class has 1 term in the academic year dedicated to learning the ukulele, which will provide, in time, the opportunity for them to progress their skills in this instrument over the course of the key stage. However, as this model has only just been introduced this academic year, this progression will take time to be established.

Children's performances in their music lessons are videoed by staff so that they can then be shown to parents are part of our 'Open Classroom' sessions. They may also be included in the class Family Learning afternoons where children share their learning experiences with their parents. This year, we have also planned a Music Showcase afternoon in March where each class will have the opportunity to perform to the rest of the school. Class music lessons also link closely to our larger music productions during the year: EYFS and KS1 Nativity, KS2 Carol Concert and Year 6 Production, all of which feature in the school music curriculum planning.

All children are included in class curriculum Music lessons, with adaptations being made to different activities to enable all children to participate in a way that is comfortable for them and enables them to progress. This might include children using ear defenders during certain aspects of practical music or a smaller group working in a quieter area of the school, for example. More detail on how the school supports children with SEN to access learning across the curriculum can be found in our school's SEN Information Report:

<https://www.derryhillschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2219&type=pdf>

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.

Children at Derry Hill can access guitar tuition in both individual and small group lessons on a Wednesday with Luke Gittings, and Luke has done whole school sessions to introduce these lessons. The majority of children studying guitar with Luke do not take exams, but he does offer this should a child be interested.

Wiltshire Music for Schools are also offering music tuition for children on different instruments and this offer is being introduced to children from years 2-6 in a special assembly session on 10th October 2024.

We also work with Rocksteady to offer children weekly in-school band sessions where they learn to perform as a group. Parents sign up for sessions directly with Rocksteady and they work with a number of groups each week. Some disadvantaged learners (post LAC, for example) are subsidised to attend. Children are given termly opportunities to perform to parents and other classes in the school are invited to watch.

Over the past two years, we have also been part of the Voices for Life Schools Project, where musicians deliver a weekly 1-hour workshops in our school over three months, integrating singing and music with confidence and wellbeing activities. This year, the children involved are being taught 'The Elements Cantata' and will join together with nearly 200 children from local primary schools in performing the piece at two special performance evenings at Wiltshire Music Centre in November.

Sessions for all these opportunities are run in spaces within the school, such as the school hall, library or computer suite.

The school had a singing club as one of our staff-led after school clubs last academic year, and this academic year this has been extended to run for the whole year as a School Choir Club. The choir will have the opportunity to sing as a smaller group at

events such as the Remembrance Service and Christmas Carol Service, as well as in the school Music Showcase Afternoon in March. Children who want to be part of the choir, but who are unable to attend the after school sessions each Monday, will be given the opportunity to join the group through lunchtime sessions in the run up to an event.

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.

Singing is a big part of our school's Christian identity and each week our Thursday whole school Act of Worship celebration is designated as a singing worship. Children are taught a range of traditional and modern songs linked to our key values and to different celebrations and the songs are an integral part of our larger worship events, such as the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service and Easter Service.

We run a whole school trip to the Pantomime in Swindon's Wyvern Theatre every December offering children the opportunity to experience a live performance. Where SEND children might struggle to attend, we offer their parents the opportunity to accompany them so that they can be included successfully in the trip. This trip is funded through parental contributions, except those children on Pupil Premium for whom it is funded through this. The cost is kept down by the transport being paid for by Friends of Derry Hill School (FODHS).

We also subscribe to the Wiltshire Music Connect service and take advantage where possible in their Live Music Now initiative, which brings live streamed concerts to schools for free. Currently, we have one of these booked for December 2024, featuring the harpist Alis Huws and will be offering the opportunity to watch this concert in school to a range of classes.

A further cross-curricular development this year comes from our PE department, which is launching Drumba as an element in the PE curriculum. This combines music (drumming) and physical activity (zumba) in a really exciting way.

In the future

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

Future developments planned for Music at Derry Hill include:

- Monitoring the new Music curriculum and getting feedback on this from children, teachers and other stakeholders to ensure that it meets the needs of our children and is fully inclusive.
- Amending and improving the curriculum where required.
- Seeking further opportunities for children to experience live music through workshops in school, applying for grants to deliver these when these can be accessed.
- Increasing the performance opportunities by having an in-school Music Showcase two or three times a year and considering how parents might be able to access these.
- Expanding opportunities for the School Choir and increasing the number of children in this. This will hopefully include taking the choir to sing in the community, such as in local old people's centres or care homes.