

Music development plan summary 2026 - 27

Hawthorns Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 27
Date this summary was published	01.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	20.07.27
Name of the school music lead	Michelle Turner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	West Sussex Music
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 Hawthorns Primary School, our curriculum is planned carefully to ensure pupils build upon a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding year on year. Within the planned curriculum, which is in-line with Model Music Curriculum, children get the opportunity to perform, create, compose, listen and appraise. Opportunities are provided during weekly music lessons to practise and overlearn the fundamental elements of music in a safe and inclusive environment. Pupils are encouraged to retrieve important key knowledge to build on and embed their understanding of music as a whole and increase their confidence of performance. They are introduced to a wide repertoire of musical styles and genres, learning to build their individual appreciation of music as a whole as well as develop their own personal tastes. This curriculum is delivered through lessons taught by the class teacher and enriched by weekly music assemblies and a dedicated Expressive Arts Week each year. Our music curriculum is supported by other well-known music programmes and resources such as

the Charanga scheme of work, Sing-Up, Minute of Listening, Friday Afternoons, BBC 10 Pieces and Bring the Noise. Our children also have access to events and activities provided through the West Sussex Music Hub and locality schools, to widen their experience and contribute to a well-rounded musical education.

We have a week dedicated to expressive arts each year and the music element of that, focusses an area of music in more depth. Examples include, composition and musical scoring, instruments of the orchestra and music from around the world. Another curriculum week dedicated to diversity also has a music focus on cultures and traditions within music.

Each class has a timetabled weekly 45 minute lesson set aside for music. In addition to this, listening and appraising time (weekly coverage) is built into the week at set times (early morning, after lunch or as part of an assembly). In these sessions, children are exposed to a music repertoire as recommended in the Model Music Curriculum which has been adapted into a weekly schedule for all year groups. We have a 30 minute weekly music assembly which supports children with part-singing, performing and learning of fundamental musical elements and vocabulary.

In Key Stage 2, pupils experience a term of whole-class ensemble teaching.

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.

Hawthorns offers tuition in guitar on a one-to-one basis and to play keyboard, guitar, drums and sing in a band. These are provided by Rockademy and RockSteady funded by parents. A bursary is provided by Rocksteady which enables other children a session. All children have the opportunity to learn an instrument for one term, as part of their curriculum provision but they are also encouraged and given opportunities to continue with the instrument afterwards. The uptake for RockSteady has been the most successful external music tuition we have had.

There is an optional after school choir club open to Key Stage 2 in the Autumn Term and then to the whole school thereafter. There is a small cost to this which is subsidised for some families. In choir, the children are given opportunities to perform both in and out of school. The children perform at Arundel Cathedral as part of a locality project in the Autumn Term and at other community places such as a local residential home and local areas throughout the year.

Also, throughout the school year, there is sometimes an opportunity for pupils to join an instrumental group but this is always dependent on numbers as it is run as an extra-curricular club.

Children are signposted to opportunities through the school newsletter and communication systems when they arise. An example would be where some children in KS2 were taught some songs in class by a representative from the 'Spring into Soul' Choir and have then been invited to see a concert and join in sharing the songs they have learnt at an outside school event. Opportunities to join external choirs and groups run by West Sussex Music Hub are shared with pupils and parents regularly.

Some pupils learn instruments privately outside school and they are encouraged to come and play in class and in assemblies to share their progress and inspire other pupils that may be interested. The school has a music room which children can use to practise their instrument.

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 Hawthorns, we take part in as many musical events and opportunities as possible. Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 take part in the Little Sing and Big Sing respectively which gives them the opportunity to sing in a larger choir with other locality schools. In Key Stage 2 they are taken to listen to the Worthing Symphony Orchestra who perform a broad repertoire of popular classical music. The whole school take part in Sing-Up Day each year and we look forward to seeing a snippet of ourselves perform with other groups across the world. This year we featured in an article by Sing Up who joined us for the day. A small charge may be made for local transport but the events are free.

Every class performs in their class assembly, showcasing the learning for the term in music and using song to embed their learning in other subjects too. Each class learns a carol or Christmas related song with some instrumentation and this is performed at the local church to parents and others in the community. At the end of term, the whole school gather at the end of the day for an outdoor performance as the parents collect, to celebrate and share some of the songs they have learnt in whole school music assemblies.

Our Expressive Arts Week brings in specialist performers to widen pupil's cultural capital. An example of this was, inviting in a travelling theatre group to perform a musical of 'The Wizard of Oz' to all of the children and provide a class with a work shop to have a go themselves. We have also given children access to a djembe workshop and an instrument workshop as part of the focussed week. These experiences are

funded by the school. This year KS2 have also visited the Theatre in Brighton to watch a production of Barnham and we have put on a school production of Peter Pan.

In our music assemblies, the children learn a range of warm-up songs. They learn to sing in 2 and 3 part harmony which we record and play back to them. We also have whole school instrumental sessions using tuned and un-tuned percussion where every child is playing an instrument together.

Finally, the school arranges free Family Friday events which welcome the school community to learn together. Sessions have included a Karaoke sing-a-long, a piper as part of Burns Night celebrations with Scottish dancing and a scientific workshop which allows children to explore pitch produced in a variety of ways.

In the future

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

Provision for music both within the curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities has developed significantly over the last couple of years and it is our intention to continue to improve both its quality and the number of opportunities the children have. We have recently been awarded the 'Music Mark of Recognition for Music, in Dedication and Improvement'.

We serve an area where disadvantage is higher than national and as such intend to fill the gap in cultural capital as best we can. Curriculum music is mostly delivered by class teachers and so building staff knowledge continues to be a priority as well as widening experiences and ideally encouraging more children to learn an instrument. Although there has been an improvement here, we would like to continue extending staff knowledge of digital music opportunities within the main music lessons.

We have resourced our curriculum with class sets of ukulele, djembe, chime bars and recorders and have the capacity within the staff to deliver instrument whole class tuition so that by the time the children leave the school, they would have had the chance to try a percussion, stringed and wind instrument. In the future we are looking at widening our opportunities for ensemble work.

We hope to now continue for the children to experience a bi-annual trip to a theatre outside of the school, alternated with an experience within school to a musical performance. The intention is that by the time a child leaves the school, they would have enjoyed and been exposed to a wide range of musical experiences.