

Music development plan summary: Whitchurch Combined School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 25
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 26
Name of the school music lead	Mrs S Carson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
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.

For an overview of our Music Curriculum at Whitchurch Combined School and our detailed music policy please see the music page on our website

<https://www.whitchurchcombined.co.uk/music/>

At Whitchurch Combined School children are given opportunities to learn about and take part in musical activities across the curriculum. The amount of time allocated to music is an hour per week.

The curriculum is planned carefully to include all the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum. There is a mix of whole class instrument teaching and lessons from the Kapow music scheme. The curriculum is planned to fit in with class topics where possible, to give the children the widest possible range of genres and traditions of music and to give them the opportunity to experience and play a wide range of musical instruments. Music is taught within the classroom by the class teacher and also in

assemblies, whole school music events, one to one music lessons and extra-curricular clubs.

In year 3 children spend two terms learning to play the recorder. This includes a basic understanding of reading music, rhythm, playing together in an ensemble and performance. They then return to the recorder in year 5 for one term, to enable them to develop and extend their playing to more complex pieces. In year 4 they are taught the Ukulele for two terms. This enables them to explore a string instrument, playing chords, accompanying themselves, playing in an ensemble, reading music and performance.

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.

All children from year two upwards are given the opportunity to learn an instrument in a one to one or small group lesson. These take place in school with peripatetic teachers. Currently we have children learning the guitar, drums, keyboard, violin, trumpet and trombone but there is the opportunity to arrange other instrument lessons if they are requested. Lessons are provided by both local private teachers, and teachers working for the Buckinghamshire Music Trust.

Individual and small group lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are Pupil Premium, these lessons can be subsidised by the Pupil Premium provision.

We have a large and thriving KS2 choir which meets once a week at lunchtime and is open to all. The choir performs at school events such as the Christmas Fayre and concert, the summer fayre and community events such as ones organised for the Jubilee and to celebrate the fiftieth birthday of the school. Each year the choir attends the Young Voices concert in the O2 arena in London. We take between 40-50 children and most of their parents also attend.

The local music hub (BMT) in Aylesbury is open to all and advertised through the school. Children are able to take instrument lessons there, hire instruments and take part in groups and ensembles during evenings and weekends.

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.

Each week the whole school takes part in a twenty minute music assembly. This includes reception from the Spring Term. The children are taught a range of songs that are accessible for the younger children, but also have parts and harmonies to extend the older. Some songs have sign language or Makaton elements. The music is also seasonal. So, for example, learning harvest songs in October, Christmas carols in December and other music when required to fit in with events happening in school. The music assembly starts each week with a piece of music that the children listen to and learn about.

Classes are timetabled to share what they have been learning in their music lessons during the assembly. This is a sample and not a finished performance, to allow them to become more comfortable with performing in front of others as a normal part of their school experience. Each class shares some music at least once a term.

There are also opportunities for children to work towards a performance to share with parents. Each year there is a KS1 nativity, Harvest Assemblies in both KS1 and KS2, a Christingle service in the church and an end of year show for year 6. We also frequently run extra events to celebrate. For example, an outside performance for the Queen's Jubilee and another for the King's Coronation. We take part in community events such as village fayres. Each Christmas we have a concert where the whole school performs and children who learn instruments are invited to perform independently or as a group.

The peripatetic music teachers that work with us also lead their students in assemblies at other times of the year to show how their children are progressing, give them a chance to perform to parents and encourage new learners. At times our music teachers also give concerts to the children and teach them about their chosen instrument. We have also had a concert from a local teenager who has played on the stage in the West End of London.

As part of our link with BMT children have experienced live classical music concerts from the New Mozart Orchestra and taken part in workshops where they have the opportunity to try out a wide range of instruments.

Children from one class take part in the bi-annual Energize event where they come together with other Buckinghamshire schools to rehearse and perform in a local large theatre.

Each year the KS2 choir performs at the O2 arena in London as part of the Young Voices choir. This is open to all of KS2, with adaptations made to ensure that all children can participate whatever their individual needs. This is a very popular event with both parents and children and the choir often bring this enthusiasm back into school with performances afterwards. As part of the concert children are also given the opportunity to hear performances from a range of professional musicians and also to perform with those musicians.

In the future

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

In future years we plan to:

- Further develop engagement in extra-curricular music for Pupil Premium and SEND children. There should be an increase in numbers by the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Increase the number of instruments taught by introducing drums as a whole class instrument lesson into the curriculum – by September 26
- Give all the children the opportunity to see a live music concert - by the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Continue to increase the number of children learning instruments – including brass and woodwind. - by the 2026-2027 academic year
- Work towards a school recorder group open to all children in KS2 who have completed at least a term recorder lessons in class. - by the 2026-2027 academic year

Further information

Our local music hub can be found here <https://www.bucksmusic.org/> On this website you can access information about how to sign up for music lessons, join music activities outside school time and what is available in the local area.

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.