Music development plan summary: Whitehall Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	10/10/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/10/26
Name of the school music lead	Morena Fennell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Waltham Forest Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

Overview of Curriculum Provision

At our school, music plays an essential role in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. From Reception to Year 6, all pupils receive a high-quality music education that fosters creativity, confidence, and a lifelong enjoyment of music. Music supports wider learning, emotional development, and opportunities for collaboration and self-expression.

Curriculum Model and Time Allocation

Reception to Year 6:

All pupils receive one hour of dedicated music teaching per week over 3 half terms, following the Charanga music programme. This provides a clear progression of skills in listening, performing, improvising, and composing, aligned with the National Curriculum.

Years 2, 3, 5 & 6:

Recorder is taught in Years 2, 3, 5 &6. Through learning the recorder, pupils develop their skills in reading musical notation, breath control, and ensemble performance.

Year 4:

Year 4 pupils have a 30-minute weekly ukulele lesson, giving them experience with chord-based playing and group performance.

Musical Appreciation and Listening

As part of our curriculum, pupils engage in music appreciation, listening to and learning about significant composers and musicians from different genres, cultures, and historical periods. This includes exploring the work of the musical greats, both classical and contemporary, to

develop an understanding of music history, style, and cultural influence. Listening activities are woven throughout the curriculum to build pupils' critical engagement with music.

Musical Progression and Assessment

Progression is built into the Charanga scheme through revisiting and deepening key musical concepts over time. Pupils are assessed through ongoing teacher observation, practical outcomes, and participation. Lessons are inclusive and adapted to ensure all pupils are supported and challenged appropriately.

Cross-Curricular Links and Technology

Music is also embedded across the wider curriculum, including links with computing and multimedia. Pupils use digital tools and software to explore sound creation, audio recording, and music-based projects such as podcasts and presentations. This supports their understanding of music in real-world and cross-disciplinary contexts.

Enrichment and Inclusion

Our music curriculum is designed to be accessible and engaging for all pupils. Through whole-class instrumental learning, all children have the opportunity to develop as musicians regardless of prior experience. A wide variety of musical genres, cultures, and traditions are explored to reflect and celebrate diversity within our school community.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Our school provides a variety of opportunities for pupils to engage with music beyond the classroom, supporting their continued musical development and passion for music.

Additional Instrumental Tuition

We work in partnership with Waltham Forest Music Service to offer additional paid instrumental lessons during the school day. These lessons provide pupils with the chance to learn instruments such as guitar and keyboard, tailored to their interests and abilities. This specialist tuition helps pupils progress in technique, repertoire, and performance skills beyond the core curriculum.

Music Groups and Ensembles

We encourage pupils to join or form ensembles and bands to develop their ensemble playing, listening, and leadership skills.

Pupils have the opportunity to take part in ukulele groups and other small ensembles, allowing them to practise and perform collaboratively outside of lesson time.

Singing Opportunities

While we do not currently run a formal choir, pupils have opportunities to sing in class assemblies and school productions encouraging participation and confidence in singing beyond the curriculum.

Progression and Enrichment

Cross -curricular music provision is designed to complement and extend classroom learning, providing pupils with a pathway to progress as performers and musicians.

Pupils participating in extra-curricular music are encouraged to set personal goals and may be supported to take graded exams or performance opportunities where appropriate.

Part C: Musical experiences.

Singing and Whole-School Music-Making

Singing is regularly incorporated into class assemblies, where pupils perform songs as part of their presentations to the school and parents.

We stage a Nativity performance every December, involving singing and storytelling. This is a key event in our school calendar and supports pupils' confidence and performance skills.

Year 6 pupils take part in an end-of-year performance, which includes singing, acting, and musical theatre elements. This is a celebratory event that allows pupils to showcase their talents at the end of their time at Whitehall.

Partnerships and External Opportunities

We are proud to take part in the Royal Opera House's Create and Sing programme, providing pupils with access to professional singing resources and creative workshops.

Pupils have visited the Royal Opera House and the Royal Ballet, gaining first-hand experience of live, professional musical and theatrical performances.

Our school also participated in the Waltham Forest Ukulele Jam, giving pupils the opportunity to perform alongside other schools in a large-scale, collaborative musical event. This helped pupils develop ensemble skills and experience live music-making in a wider community setting.

Community and Enrichment

Music plays an important role in school events, celebrations, and themed days, offering pupils regular opportunities to share their musical achievements with the school community.

We actively seek out local and national musical partnerships and events to enhance our music provision and give pupils inspiring and memorable experiences beyond the classroom.

These musical experiences are central to our aim of making music inclusive, exciting, and meaningful for every pupil.

In the future

We are committed to continually seeking opportunities for our pupils to experience a wide range of musical and musical theatre experiences, both in and out of school. This includes expanding our programme of visits to professional music venues and arts establishments and building new partnerships that will enrich pupils' understanding and enjoyment of music.

We aim to ensure that all children, regardless of background, can be inspired by live music, performance, and creative workshops, helping them to see music as something that is both accessible and meaningful in their lives.