

Music Development Plan

Whitgreave Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Barrett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs C Ivory
Name of local music hub	Wolverhampton Music Service
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 Whitgreave Primary School, we foster an ethos of high expectations and aspirations to ensure all children achieve their full potential in all areas. Through our broad and balanced curriculum, we aim to provide a high-quality music education. At Whitgreave, we are passionate and committed to providing the children in our care with exceptional learning opportunities and our curriculum has been developed with our vision and aims at the core of it.

Music is an integral part of our curriculum, celebrated in all that we do. From EYFS, the children are exposed to music throughout their learning experiences. All children from Year 1 to Year 6 receive a dedicated music day each half term with a highly skilled teacher. During their lessons, children experience a wide range of genres and have a range of experiences for music. We adopt the online scheme of work, Charanga, which provides current and relevant material to the children. As a school, we continually

review this in light of monitoring that takes place such as lesson visits and pupil voice. This allows children to develop their singing, listening, composing, improvising and performance skills. Through this approach, we aim to inspire a lifelong love of music and equip our children with valuable skills that will support their wider learning and personal development.

Our Music Approach

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. The learning of music develops an awareness and appreciation of musical traditions, from the past and present, in a variety of cultures and societies. This helps children understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between the home, school and wider world. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. It also plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community, whether that is as a class, a school or the city of Wolverhampton. We provide opportunities for children of all ages to play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

Aims

- To provide all children with an education in music that is stimulating, enriching and inspiring through curricular and extra-curricular learning.
- To encourage confidence in all children in order to promote an individual's interest, self-reliance and motivation.
- To develop an understanding and appreciation of different types of music.

Objectives

- To teach music through the National Curriculum and the Creative Development area of learning from the Foundation Stage, following a structured music programme.
- To promote all the children's achievements in music within the school and the wider community.
- To provide all children with the opportunity to express themselves creatively and to develop their musical skills through an understanding of pitch, rhythm, dynamics, duration, tempo, timbre, texture and structure, using both instruments and voices.
- To develop performing, improvising, composing and appraising skills by applying listening skills and knowledge and understanding of music.

Teaching and learning

At Whitgreave, we make music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in all music lessons through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. Singing lies at the heart of exemplary music teaching. Through both curricular and extra-curricular activities, we focus on developing the children's ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music, as well as many of the key elements of music. We also teach children to listen to and appreciate different forms of music, so they begin to have an understanding and appreciation of different music genres.

Our school follows the model Music Curriculum from the Charanga programme, which allows for progression both across the year groups and also as the child progresses through the school. Each year group's lessons are planned by our music lead to ensure that all topics are spread out and covered over the year. Each skill taught is built upon during each year of the programme, so by the time the child leaves our school, they will have in depth knowledge of many of the key elements and genres used in music. We use this scheme, Charanga, to ensure that our pupils continue to develop their musicianship.

All activities are based around a focus song. Each lesson has a variety of activities to support the teaching and learning of this song:

- Using games to embed the key concepts in music through repetition.
- Singing, which is at the heart of all the musical learning.
- Playing instruments as an accompaniment to the song being learnt.
- Improvising with the song using voices and instruments. While children play the full range of instruments available in school, including un-tuned percussion, we currently focus on glockenspiel in Years 1 and 2, recorder in Years 3 and 4, followed by keyboard in Years 5 and 6.
- Composing with the song using instruments, as well as Charanga's Yumu Studio on iPads for Years 4, 5 and 6.
- Performing the song that they have been focusing on.

At our school, we teach music to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. As part of the school curriculum policy, we aim to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. We strive hard to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. During the lessons, staff strive to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children, adapting lessons where necessary to ensure all children can access.

We ensure that all children are challenged in music lessons in a variety of ways:

- We set tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses.
- Children are set tasks aimed at their ability and are often given the chance to work in groups or pairs to aid their understanding as well as building their collaboration skills.
- We provide resources of different complexity, depending on the needs of the child.
- We use teaching assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

Assessment

On-going Assessment for Learning (AfL) is used in all lessons. Each lesson is recorded through pictures, videos and feedback from children. Each year group has a 'floor book' to record their music journey. At two points during the school year (Spring 1 and Summer 2), the teacher makes a summary judgement about the musical skills and development of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum or Foundation Stage Framework. They also track progress of children through the use of Music Milestones.

Resources

Children have the wonderful opportunity to experience their Music lessons in our bespoke music classroom. We have a range of instruments which can support lessons through the school.

Within the music room, there is a central store of:

- A wide range of percussion instruments.
- Selections of instruments from other cultures.
- Glockenspiels.
- Keyboards and piano.
- Songbooks and Seasonal Production packs.
- CDs.
- Music stands.
- Recorders.
- Variety of drums.
- A range of displays including a Music History timeline, the musical stave and notation, key vocabulary for each year group and traditional and classical instruments from around the world.

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.

Music Beyond the Classroom at Whitgreave

At Whitgreave, we provide a range of opportunities for pupils to experience and engage with music beyond their taught lessons. These opportunities aim to develop performance skills, enrich cultural understanding, and generate a lifelong love of music.

School Choir

Our pupils in Years 4 to 6 have the opportunity to join the school choir, which enriches their musical experiences and provides chances to perform both within school and the wider community. The choir has performed at Young Voices since 2023. All school clubs are free of charge for pupils to attend.

Assemblies

Each half term, the Music lead identifies a particular genre of music that will be a focus during assembly times. These include British composers, classical music and music from around the world, amongst others. Each week, children are given information about a particular artist and they listen to one of their significant and/or important compositions.

Dedicated Performances

Throughout the year, pupils have opportunities to showcase their talents through Christmas performances and in Year 6, an end-of-year performance.

Additionally, children can experience high-quality musical performances from external groups, such as pantomimes, music workshops and visits from the Wolverhampton Music Service staff bands.

Wolverhampton Music Service

The Wolverhampton Music Service delivers specialist violin lessons to Year 4 and 5 pupils, as well as clarinet lessons to Year 5 and 6 pupils. At the end of the programme, children have the exciting opportunity to perform to pupils, parents and carers celebrating their learning and achievements. Children of all abilities can join and there is no charge for pupils.

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 Whitgreave, we love performing and we aim to provide children with many musical experiences through their time at school. We recognise the importance of experiential learning and music and performance plays a part in this. We give our children lots of experiences to share their talents within school but we also encourage visits to the theatre, visits from performing artists and give children exposure to live music performances. Our Young Voices choir have the opportunity to perform in assembly to encourage others to join.

In the future

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

We have an ambitious vision for music at Whitgreave and we want to give our children even more opportunities to build their cultural capital and music abilities. We would like to:

- Increase opportunities for instrument tuition so that it is available to a wider range of children.
- Extend our choir to include a wider range of events as well as continue with attending Young Voices.
- Continue ongoing Charanga CPD for music teachers to inform best practices in music education.