

Music development plan summary

Woodside School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	01-09-2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	01-09-2026
Name of the school music lead	Julie Harrison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Julie Harrison
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock steady Pauline Quirk Academy Amersham A Cappella Amersham Band Soundbox

This is a summary of how Woodside 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.

Our curriculum uses the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) at its foundation. The MMC sets out sequences of learning in the following key areas which, when taken together, all contribute towards the steadily increasing development of musicianship:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

We have taken the MMC and written our own. Learning is exciting and children have opportunities to use digital technologies such as Incredibox, Chrome Music Lab and Soundtrap; create whole class performances; immerse themselves in learning linked to their history and geography topics; and learn a range of instruments. All children have the opportunity to perform and compose and learn an instrument each year. (Year 3- recorder, year 4- ukulele, year 5 glockenspiel, year 6- keyboard and djembe) The children also learn about a number of instruments and learn to identify them within a larger orchestra.

The starting point of our curriculum is the belief that *all* children should be able to experience music and to make progress. We strongly believe that music enriches individual lives and our curriculum exposes children to a wide range of experiences, composers, genres and time periods. We offer a rich and varied music curriculum that nurtures fundamental music techniques alongside building musical knowledge which leads to a more mature musical understanding. Our skills and knowledge progression has been carefully mapped out to ensure all new learning builds on previous units.

Throughout key stage 2, our pupils develop their understanding of rhythm and pitch and learn how music is structured, as well as learning the technical vocabulary for these elements. The teaching of precise musical vocabulary is set out in the curriculum and skills overview for Woodside. The children explore singing in unison, rounds and harmony and learn to use their voices with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. Staff notation not only complements developing aural skills, improvisation, memorisation and composition, but also lays the foundations for pupils to learn to read music both in and out of school and later on in secondary school.

Listening to music is fundamental to musical understanding. By learning to listen to music, pupils are able to expand their musical horizons and also gain a deeper understanding of how music is constructed and the impact it can have on the listener. Music is one of the central building blocks of any culture and the shared knowledge of music is crucial to cultural capital in understanding where we came from and our place in the world. Our inclusive approach to cultural capital ensures that pupils listen to music from a wide range of cultures and traditions that reflect our community. We expose children to a wide range of pieces to ensure that pupils gain a broad aural knowledge. These include music from the Western Classical Tradition, classical pieces from the 20th and 21st centuries, musicals, traditional music from around the world and popular music. We do this both during lesson time and through playing music whilst coming into assembly.

Music has a rare and unique ability to bring people together; music making can make a whole class, school and community feel connected to others and part of something bigger. Our curriculum celebrates the inclusion of all pupils and those with SEND are able to access lessons at an appropriate level. Music, performances and whole class/ year/ school singing also support our approach to well-being at Woodside. More able pupils can hone their musical skills and are introduced to more advanced compositional skills, technical vocabulary and develop a deeper understanding of the mechanics of musical theory.

Music lessons are taught each week for up to 1 hour. Lessons do not follow a standard format, as this will always depend on whether the focus is on singing, performing, composing or listening. Lessons are, however, always broken down into several parts so that the sequence of learning builds throughout the lesson.

Lessons are taught by our teachers, most of which have specialist musical knowledge.

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 tuition

Woodside School offers 1:1 and small group music tuition in the following instruments: Brass, guitar, flute, violin, drums. These are mostly provided by Bucks Music Trust, who also encourage the children to join ensembles at the Saturday music centre. Soundbox Music Academy deliver our 1:1 drum lessons. These lessons take place in our dedicated music room. Rock Steady offer children the opportunity to play in a band with others. Children can opt to sing, play the guitar, drums or keyboard. These lessons take place in our hall and children have the opportunity to perform to parents and peers in a Rock Steady concert 3 times per year.

Ensembles

Our teachers run free school clubs during lunchtimes. Throughout the year, we offer music clubs. Examples include recorder club, ukulele club and boom whackers. Cups club is also an opportunity for children to learn and play rhythmic patterns using cups.

Choir

We are very proud of our school choir. Our music lead runs two choirs per year. Each time, the choir runs for approximately 12 weeks with many opportunities to perform at the end. All pupils are invited to be a part of the school choir with no cap on numbers.

Some families choose to use the pupil premium offer for music tuition each week. For other families, payment is made directly to either BMT, Rock Steady or Soundbox.

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 assemblies

We have a weekly singing assembly where pupils have the opportunity to experience the joy of singing together. The children learn a range of more traditional and contemporary songs, accompanied by one of our teaching staff on the guitar. Whilst children are entering the assembly hall each day, they listen to an extensive playlist of music from a wide range of genres, cultures and time periods. This play list has been carefully planned using the model music curriculum recommendations. Not only do the children listen to this broad range of music, they also learn about who or what they are listening to each week during their singing assembly.

Concerts and shows

Year group performances

All children have an opportunity to take part in a show each year. This involves the children learning a number of songs, some of which require them to sing in parts, rounds or harmony.

Year 3- Harvest

Year 4- Christmas musical or pantomime

Year 5- Easter

Year 6- Musical production

Choir

School choir performances include:

- Concerts to parents in the hall

- Singing at the Christmas and Summer fairs
- Singing twice a year to the Age Concern Lunch Club at the Chiltern Lifestyle Centre
- Taking part in Christmas concerts for the Amersham Town Mayor
- Singing at our school carol service
- Singing in harmony with a local A cappella Octet

And in the past (with plans to repeat in the future):

- Young Voices at the O2 Arena
- Taking part in a Christmas Concert with a local choir- Amersham A Cappella
- Taking part in the joint local schools' concert 'InConcert' every 2 years

Concerts

We often invite groups in to perform for the children. This exposes the children to joy of live musical performances. Each year, these performances are different but can include:

- String groups from BMT
- Performances from 'Am Jam'- a local Amersham Band group
- Performances from music teachers to encourage and enthuse potential new pupils, for example in guitar, drums and ukulele
- Joint concert with local choir, Amersham A Cappella (where children stay to watch the choir perform)
- Each term, the pupil bands from Rock Steady also perform to parents and pupils.
- We are also invited regularly to musicals and performances at local secondary schools which, if invited, we always attend. We visit the Amersham School and Dr Challoner's Grammar School to see their performances and shows. This gives children the opportunity to see what performances are like at the next stage of their education. This year we plan to see 'Matilda' at The Amersham School.
- Children who take part in music lessons are also invited take part in a concert each year where they are able to show-case a piece they have been working on. This will be a new initiative this academic year.

Further opportunities to perform

Performance is an integral part of the music curriculum and, as such, we encourage year groups to share their learning in music with the rest of the school. For example, each year, year 6 perform a number of songs and drum patterns in an assembly to the whole school.

In the future

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

- Hold a concert each year for children who play an instrument (including those who take lessons out of school) to show-case their learning.
- Invite children to perform during Friday celebration assemblies.
- Each year group to share their learning in music at least once per year with the rest of the school- further developing opportunities to perform
- Ensure a musical lunchtime club is on offer each term
- Whole school music enrichment day
- More trips/ links with local secondaries to see their musical performances

