

Music Development Plan Summary Highfield Junior and Infant School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Seb Manir
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nasra Hussain
Name of local music hub	Services for Education: Birmingham Music Education Partnership
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: Music Curriculum

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.

Curriculum

At Highfield Junior and Infant School, we want the children to develop a lifelong love for music. We deliver the National Curriculum for Music across all year groups, including the Resource Base, using the Charanga music scheme that has been tailored for Highfield. Every year group teaches Music weekly along with additional opportunities through assemblies. Each music unit follows a sequence of learning: listen and appraise, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition, perform and share. Through this, each year group explores different styles of music. This approach ensures the children get a rich learning experience covering all aspects of music.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is where we start our integrated approach to musical learning, laying down the foundations for KS1 and KS2. Our youngest children listen to and sing along with different pieces of music, nursery rhymes and action songs. In reception, the children are exposed to a range of instruments and learn their names and how to play them. They begin to improvise and play classroom instruments. The children are given the opportunity to share and perform the learning that has taken place by performing in performances such as the nativity.

The KS1 curriculum focuses on the love of singing, especially songs with different rhythms. This helps the children as they learn to develop their vocal skills. In KS1, the children also learn to play a range of instruments. The pupils in Year 1 begin to learn to play percussion instruments such as the glockenspiel and are introduced to simple musical notation. In Year 2, pupils are introduced to the recorder and are taught to play chosen songs, and they begin to learn simple musical notation.

In Year 3, pupils continue to receive recorder playing lessons to build on and refine the skills which they acquired in Year 2. In Year 4, pupils are taught by a music specialist teacher who teaches the year group to play instruments such as the steel pans and the electric keyboard. The children continue to build upon reading notation, which helps them to play a range of different songs. At the end of each term, the children in year 4 share a performance where parents are invited to see their progress.

In Year 5, the children learn to play chosen songs on the keyboard and further develop their musical notation. In Year 6, children learn to play a range of songs on percussion instruments such as glockenspiel and create improvisations and compositions.

In Resource base, the children are given the opportunity to explore different styles of music and begin to play and improvise with a range of percussion instruments including body percussion.

Throughout the pupil's time in school, the children are given opportunities within each unit of work to create new melodies and musical patterns and are given guidance to assess and improve their compositions.

A link to our whole school curriculum can be found [here](#).

Music Around School

Our curriculum allows children to listen and appraise music across a range of historical periods, genres and styles. We also want them to learn about a range of diverse musicians and composers to inspire them. Our aim is that our pupils will learn to sing and play musical instruments. They will develop these skills by using their creativity to improvise and compose their own pieces of music. Through our curriculum, pupil's confidence to perform in front of an audience will build. Enrichment and curriculum opportunities will develop an enduring passion for music in our pupils that could turn them into great musicians and composers of the future.

Expert Provision

As a trust, our school works closely with other primary schools across the PACT Network. This helps us to collaborate and develop the music curriculum and how to assess effectively to monitor progress. Our school also works closely with Prince Albert High School where the music specialist teacher advises us on how as a school, we can continue to build the foundations for children's knowledge in music. In Year 4, the children are taught by a music specialist teacher that will help teach them how to play percussion instruments such as the steel pans and electric keyboard.

Part B: Cross-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.

School Choir

At Highfield Junior and Infant School, children are given the opportunity to join in extra curriculum activities such as the school choir, which is led by Mrs Turvey. In this club, pupils are taught to pitch match, understand what the dynamics and articulation of music are and how to use it when singing. The pupils are given ample opportunities to share and perform in front of a range of audiences within and outside of school. They have made regular trips to the local hospital and elderly care home where they have shared their performances.

Internal/External Performances

Rocksteady Music School visit the children and expose them to different instruments that can be played in a band. Children watch a live performance by a professional music player. They are given the opportunity to sign up to Rocksteady Music where they can get additional lessons in school to learn how to play an instrument that can be played within a band.

Children are provided with the opportunity to watch a live performance at school where the Musical Theatre perform a pantomime.

Children that have a passion for music are given the opportunity to attend a live concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall. The concert is organised by the Music for Youth. Children watch a range of children and young adults perform different music styles such as Tamil music to theatrical performances. By watching other young performers perform, this will help the children to develop their own confidence in performing.

Singing Assemblies

Throughout the academic year, children will have singing assemblies for two half-terms. During the singing assemblies, the children will learn to warm up their vocal cords and practice singing a range of songs including the school song called Highfield School. These assemblies will help the children to sing with confidence, clarity and in time.

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.

School Performances

Within our school, there are a range of performances that take place. During Christmas, the reception children perform a nativity and sing a range of festive songs. Each year group perform different festive songs during assemblies where parents are invited. At the end of each term, Year 4 perform an ensemble performance where they play an instrument such as the steel pan and electric keyboard. In these performances, the children also sing a range of songs in unison. These performances are led by a music specialist. At the end of the third term, the year 6 children are given the opportunity to perform in the Highfield Talent Show where they can sing or play an instrument. The children are given the opportunity to perform to their peers and their parents.

In the future

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

In the future, we plan to arrange live concerts where children across the Trust get together and perform to a live audience that includes. This will provide the children the opportunity to further develop their confidence in performing in setting outside the school. We would also like to seek and provide opportunities for our pupils to see professional musicians perform.