

# Music development plan summary: Commonswood Primary and Nursery School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Lanyon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Seymour
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

At Commonswood Primary School we believe that Music has a significant impact on children's social, emotional and academic growth. Music is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It also increases self-discipline and creativity, aesthetic awareness, sensitivity and fulfilment. It brings together intellect and feeling and enables personal expression, reflection and emotional development. As an integral part of culture, past and present, it helps pupils understand themselves and relate to others, forging important links between the home, school and the wider world.

We aim to offer the children musical experiences of the highest quality to enable pupils to acquire and develop the musical skills involved in performing, composing, listening and appraising. To build confidence in children to perform to a large audience and develop an understanding that music has the power to bring people together as a community.

Our curriculum for music is supported by the award-winning online platform 'Charanga' (we are provided a free subscription via our music hub), 'Sing Up' and the BBC Ten Pieces. This scheme allows us to teach comprehensive and carefully sequenced music lessons, ensuring that all children progress and build upon their music skills in each key stage.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Our music scheme provides a week-by-week lesson support for each year group in the school and includes lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, and engaging whiteboard resources to support every lesson. The scheme uses an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning. Each half term unit is carefully sequenced to build upon prior learning, ensuring better cognition and retention, focusing on the high-quality development of children as musicians.

We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing and the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

Our music progression document can be found on our school website detailing end of phase expectations within the knowledge and skills covered.

A high quality music education is a right for all children and we consider every child's individual needs without compromising on quality provision.

In line with our SEND policy and Code of Practice, all children at Commonswood are supported to access all areas of the music curriculum and all musical opportunities. Our music lessons are inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for all. Resources and activities are available to support a variety of specific needs. Each music lesson offers a range of activities and musical experiences that start with interactive games, singing and vocal warm-ups, playing instrumental parts in a

song, introducing and learning notation, improvisation and composing activities and an opportunity to perform and share. Specific vocabulary is displayed within the classroom to support learning of musical knowledge and skills throughout each lesson.

During lessons, children are exposed to a wide variety of tuned and untuned instruments.

In addition, all Children have the opportunity to learn to play a specific musical instrument during lessons:

Nursery and Reception- a variety of percussion instruments

Year 1 and 2- Glockenspiels and Ocarina

Year 3- Ocarina and Recorder

Year 4, 5 and 6- Keyboard and Recorder

This year we are hoping Lower KS2 will have the opportunity to learn Ukulele as part of the First Access scheme. Instruments are provided and the sessions are subsidised by Herts Music Service. These sessions are offered free of charge to Year 4

Children at Commonswood School have one hour of dedicated music teaching a week and a 30 minute singing assembly. This is enhanced by further singing opportunities in the classroom, often linked to other subjects or by enrichment opportunities.

## Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time.

- At Commonswood Primary School, we currently offer individual and small group lessons on guitar through the Hertfordshire Music Service. Peripatetic teachers visit the school and teach children in our dedicated music practise room. Individual and small group lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium, these lessons can be reduced in cost and funded by the Pupil Premium provision. In addition, variable levels of support for funding can be applied for via Hertfordshire Music Service. More details and access to the application process can be found here: <https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/help-withmusic-fees.aspx>
- The KS2 prestigious choir is led by a highly-experienced senior member of staff. The choir learns a range of songs from different genres and has opportunities to perform in school assemblies; for parents at the Christmas carol concert and summer fete; in the local community for residents at local care homes; in

London Royal Albert Hall and O2 'Young voices' - here children develop their choral skills and collaborate with hundreds of fellow choristers.

- We hope to continue the Musical theatre club run in school, which KS2 children will be able to access culminating in a final performance for parents.
- Commonswood have been working in partnership with 'Rocksteady Music School' a fun and inclusive opportunity for pupils to express their love for making music in a band. We know that spending time playing instruments and having fun can have a positive impact on self-esteem and wellbeing. No prior experience or instrument is needed as all instruments are provided.

The school works hard to ensure all pupils have the same access to these musical opportunities.

## Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise.

Children throughout the school have the opportunity to perform or experience high quality music during the academic year.

- There is a weekly KS1 and KS2 singing assembly, where the 'Composer of the month' is introduced, developing listening and appraising skills. Also providing the opportunity for pupils to perform and demonstrate their musical talent.
- Whole school events celebrating Harvest, Earth day, current sporting competitions include key songs sung in unison or KS1/KS2 parts.
- Parents and the local community are invited to experience the KS2 Carol Concert at a local church- which also includes children singing songs in French and Spanish.
- Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y2 perform Nativity/Christmas plays
- Class assemblies include key songs linked to the curriculum.
- Year 6 perform their end of year production to the rest of the school, as well as their families.
- Year 6 Leaver's Assembly incorporates elements of music.
- Annual KS2 talent show- an opportunity for singing current pop songs and playing untuned and tuned instruments

## In the future

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

For the academic year 2024-25, we are currently organising for whole-class musical instrument lessons to be taught to one year group by Hertfordshire Music Service.

This year, we are also looking at opportunities for local music ensembles and soloists to come into school to perform and inspire the children.

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Introduction of a wider range of instruments on offer for small group or individual lessons.
- Continue to research and provide a range of extra-curricular music clubs

Subscription to the 'Musician of the Month' website which will enable children to be exposed to a range of musicians and genres.

## Further information

Hertfordshire Music Service link:

<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/hertfordshire-music-service.aspx>

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.