

Music development plan summary: Whitehall Junior 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 2024

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, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Our music teaching at Whitehall Junior School is based on the Charanga teaching programme, an interactive teaching tool for all year groups. The Charanga curriculum has been designed to not only meet all objectives on the National Curriculum but has also been updated with regard to the more recent 'Model Music Curriculum'. This means that following the Charanga teaching plan ensures children are meeting all National Curriculum music objectives; they are learning the subject specific vocabulary (tempo, texture, timbre, pitch, etc.) and how to read music notation (in an accessible and progressive approach). Core musical skills are employed time and again throughout the Charanga units of study, such as performing on musical instruments, singing and listening to and evaluating various genres of music. We are a school with an excellent reputation for singing; our school choir performs at the Christmas Market and at the annual Voice in a Million event at Wembley Arena. Music employs a spiral curriculum, revisiting the same core skills, taught in bitesize blocks, but in greater depth and from different angles via various genres – this allows for consolidation. Pupil memory is also a factor of this music scheme, exposing pupils to recorders and glockenspiels at regular intervals so they can progress – not having to start from the beginning each time. This is thoroughly reflected and adhered to in the Charanga programme in a manner which is both engaging and entertaining for the children. For

example, through the use of interactive tools, which allow children to play instruments along with a tune. Charanga caters for a wide diversity of musical genres, representing numerous cultures and national identities from across the globe. This reflects our own school community. This is particularly strong in the 'listening' focus within lessons as these employ numerous genres of world music, from Bhangra to Jazz. Charanga supports the teaching of music by teachers who may not themselves be musicians. We feel it enables us to teach a rich and engaging music curriculum at Whitehall Junior School.

Further information about our music curriculum can be found on our website at:

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/page/?title=Music&pid=46>

<https://www.whitehalljunior.org/page/?title=Curriculum+and+Assessment&pid=36>

Every pupil in our school has a music exercise book. This enables them to record their responses to weekly lessons and reflect on their progress. Each music exercise book contains useful reference pages which outline musical terminology, notation and percussion instrument names. Every class has their own percussion box, enabling all pupils to handle instruments in every lesson. These are accompanied by a school produced percussion guide resource so that the correct instrument names can be used and the country of origin, for that particular instrument, can be identified.

Pupils study music for one hour per week. This consists of a class-based lesson and a weekly singing assembly. Reasonable adjustments are made for SEND pupils in order that they can fully participate in music lessons. Where applicable, hearing apparatus is finely tuned for suitability, some pupils may be offered ear defenders for parts of a lesson and others will receive pre-teaching.

Part B: Extra-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.

As a school, we run an active choir. This is led by a member of our music team and is an extra-curricular activity which runs during lunchtime so that all pupils may choose to participate (at no cost). Our choir performs at school events (e.g. our Christmas Market) and takes part in the annual Voice in a Million concert at Wembley. All year groups also perform a choral medley to their families at Christmas and each class performs a song and dance within their class assembly performance. As a rite of passage, Year 6 participate in a leavers' production in the Summer Term. This is

always a very popular event in our school calendar. This performance always includes music, dance and drama.

Through the Hillingdon Music Hub, we promote instrument lessons and share all the relevant joining information with our families annually. Lessons are generally offered to pupils in Year 4 upwards. Three venues across our borough offer music tuition across a wide range of instruments, to include: piano, viola, violin, voice, guitar, cello, saxophone, clarinet, trombone, trumpet and flute. Lessons are available Monday-Friday, as well as on Saturdays. Significantly subsidised rates are available for both tuition and instrument hire for pupil premium pupils (these are generally around £20 per term's lessons and £10 for termly instrument hire).

Further information about provision and associated costs can be found at:

<https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/startmusic>

Beyond individual music lessons, Hillingdon Music School offers pupils the opportunity to play within bands, orchestras and ensembles. Rehearsals take place on Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings during term time. All participants are expected to perform in concerts. <https://www.hillingdon.gov.uk/musicschool>

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.

Weekly singing assemblies enable both Lower and Upper School pupils to develop their singing and repertoire of music. Every class performs a song and dance within their class assembly; this performance is to their families and the rest of the school (no charge).

Year 6 perform a leavers' production in their Summer Term which includes multiple musical numbers (tickets for families are usually £2 each). Our choir performs at our Christmas Market (no charge) and at the annual Voice in a Million concert at Wembley (tickets approximately £30). Each year group also performs a medley of songs to their families in December (no charge). Cultural diversity events, generally in May, celebrate song and dance from around the world (no charge).

As a school, we value the impact of live music performances. Subsequently, visits to West End musicals and local theatre groups (e.g. for a pantomime) are made when cost effective opportunities are available.

In 2025, we look forward to a 'Proms in the Playground' performance by the Hillingdon Music Service and a visit by the RAF concert band for all year groups.

In the future

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

- The introduction of our 'new look' music exercise books in 2023 has significantly improved music provision across our school. Our music coordinators will ensure that the use of these is monitored so that they can be used in the best ways possible and form an on-going record of pupils' music provision.
- For 2024-25, we have arranged for two live music performances to take place within school for all of our learners. We will strive to continue bringing live music to our pupils in this way.
- Our new percussion boxes (introduced in 2024) will now be accompanied by percussion information cards, new for September 2024. The aim is for pupils to become more familiar with a wider range of instruments; this work will be monitored and developed by our music coordinators.
- We want to enable music specialist staff to have wider impact across the school and to enhance staff CPD with their specialist expertise.