

# Music development plan summary: Handforth Grange Primary 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	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Dr Caroline Vince-Wadey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Dr Caroline Vince-Wadey
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Link Learning; Rocksteady; Music for Life

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.

## Intent for Music at Handforth Grange

Every child – regardless of gender, ability or background – will be able to play a musical instrument, sing in parts and read from notation by the time they leave Handforth Grange. They receive specialist teaching that provides knowledge on the fundamental building blocks of music, develops their understanding of a range of musical forms, and fosters their creativity as music makers and performers.

## 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.*

The school has an extensive provision for music which meets the objectives laid out in the National Curriculum 2014 through sequences which focus on three core areas: **performing** (with instruments and voice), **listening and appraising**, and **composition**.

It also aligns with the expectations, progression and content suggestions in the Model Music Curriculum 2021.

In Years 1-4, each of the three core areas are given specific focus across the three terms of the year, with the Autumn term focussing on performance, the Spring term focussing on listening, and the Summer term focussing on composition.

Within this three-pronged structure, each term still recaps, relates to and builds upon the skills and knowledge developed previously, as well as seeking to make cross-curricular links wherever possible. Attention is also given to exposing children to music from a wide range of genres, eras and traditions.

In EYFS, children are encouraged to explore the sounds that different instruments make and take part in playing these along with songs. Performance teaching in Year 1 and 2 centres on playing percussion instruments. This progresses to playing glockenspiel and recorder in Year 3 and 4, requiring more dexterity and understanding of musical notation. By the time they are in Year 5 and 6, pupils receive their full musical curriculum through learning a string instrument (ukulele) from a specialist teacher and follow the curriculum of the Love Music Trust (aligned to the National Curriculum 2014).

In their listening and composing units, children are introduced to key forms and genres, musical vocabulary, and influential composers and works from a range of different backgrounds and traditions. Learning is recapped and extended with each year to ensure a knowledge-rich and progressive programme of study that seeks to produce well-rounded musicians.

Children in Years 1-6 have one timetabled curriculum music lesson of 40 minutes per week with their class. This is then supplemented by singing sessions delivered by the music lead for a further 20 minutes per week. These take place throughout the academic year, regardless of whether there are upcoming school performances or singing events (which increases the frequency of whole school singing), and focus on the skills of reading music and identifying song structures and styles, as well as tuition on correct singing technique. Singing is the primary manner in which music is delivered in EYFS, with progressively more complex forms introduced as children move up the school, working towards singing in harmony in Year 6.

Music is assessed regularly through both formative and summative assessment to monitor children's progress against curriculum objectives and identify gaps or misconceptions; these are then addressed in the final lesson of each term. Children in Years 5 and 6 are awarded Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum awards from the Love Music Trust, based on their level of achievement.

Teaching of music in Years 1-6 is carried out by delivered by music specialists, most of whom have studied Music to at least degree level and who are active, semi-professional performers in their own right.

Children with SEND, including those who are non-verbal, are able to participate in class music lessons, with provision and adjustments made where necessary to enable them to access musical instruments (i.e. a prop or plastic trumpet for those less able to hold one).

## **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.*

Handforth Grange is recognised regionally for its music education and has a multi award-winning school choir. The choir rehearse for 30 minutes every week of the school year; this takes place during lunchtime and is free for all children in KS2 to attend. The choir perform regularly at events both in and outside of school, including singing carols in the local community, performing at the Love Music Trust bandstand at the Cheshire Show, and competing in the Cheshire East Schools' Music Competition.

Children at Handforth Grange also have access to additional small group or one-to-one tuition in a wide range of instruments. This includes, but not limited to: guitar, piano, drums and voice. These lessons take place during the school day and are delivered by visiting music specialists from partner organisations, such as Music for Life, Link Learning and Rocksteady. With Rocksteady, children also have the chance to join a musical ensemble / rock band with their peers and perform termly for the rest of the school and parents.

Visiting music tutors usually advertise their lessons at the start and end of the academic year, but children can join at the start of any new term. Parents and carers liaise directly with the partner organisations to arrange payment and access other information regarding their child's timetable and progress (usually online). Most of our visiting tutors also offer children the chance to earn external awards and sit accredited examinations in their chosen instrument or voice.

At Handforth Grange, we are also committed to increasing the opportunities for pupils who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding; our partner organisations offer some free bursary places for these children and we are also able to secure some funding for Cared For children to access music tuition. The school choir is free for all children to attend and has a high number of children who are eligible for Pupil Premium.

Children with SEND are also actively encouraged to participate in these extra-curricular opportunities and a significant portion of children at this school who receive extra-curricular tuition and join in with choir are those with SEND.

Finally, we value our partnership with the Love Music Trust and the opportunities that they offer for continued music provision outside of school. We routinely circulate information about events, choirs and ensembles that the Love Music Trust are running in

our local area; children from our school have participated in Young Musician of the Year competitions and even vocal residential courses from the Love Music Trust.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

*This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as visiting workshops, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.*

Children from EYFS to Year 6 prepare performances for not only for Harvest Festival and Christmas every year, but we also put together either a whole school production or music festival every summer. Previous themes have included 'Handforth Vibes', 'Handforth Rocks' and 'Handforth Carnival' as well as the musical 'The Wizard of Oz'. These are large scale performance shows involving the whole school community which the children remember and talk about for years afterwards.

We invite families to come and watch the above and tickets are either free (if it takes place at school) or priced only to cover the cost of venue hire.

Children also perform a song for parents and carers at the end of every Friday assembly, and there are termly instrumental performances by children in Years 5 and 6 for parents, carers and the rest of the school, as well as more informal presentations of songs and pieces that have been worked on in curriculum music lessons across each phase.

Throughout the year, children also have the opportunity to see and hear live performances from professional musicians, either through school visits, workshops or performance assemblies from our partnership organisations. The majority of these are free for the children and we aim to do this wherever possible, though sometimes a contribution of around £5 is requested for specialist workshops (e.g. African drumming).

In Year 5, we also have an annual trip to 'Come and Play with the Halle' orchestra in the Bridgewater Hall (organised by the Love Music Trust), where children have the chance not only to hear a world-class orchestra in a famous concert venue, but also to actually join in the performance themselves. Parents and carers are asked to make a subsidised contribution towards the cost of the coach for this trip, but no child is excluded from the event.

## **In the future**

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

Based on a recent audit using the Music Development Plan template, self-assessment and training provided by the Love Music Trust, we have identified the following target areas to improve our music provision over the coming years:

- To foster greater links with high schools within our trust and local area to link between the KS2 and KS3 curriculum, possibly including joint performances or attending as an audience.
- To including growing use of technology into music lessons and provision, particularly to support the inclusion of children with SEND and sensory needs.
- To share CPD and enrichment opportunities with other staff (e.g. Early Years) and lead internal training to support the professional development of teaching staff with regards to music and singing in particular.
- To monitor and record the assessment of children's musical achievement using centralised systems in-line with other subjects (i.e. DCPro) to allow for easier data sharing and analysis.

## Further information

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.

The [Love Music Trust](#) also has a range of useful information on their website.

You may also be interested in some of our other partner organisations: [Music for Life](#), [Link Learning](#) and [Rocksteady](#).