

Music development plan summary: Watford Field Infant and Nursery

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	5.9.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	5.9.26
Name of the school music lead	Mrs EA Graham
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Herts Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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: 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.

EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), musical activities are thoughtfully integrated into the Expressive Arts and Design curriculum, guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and Development Matters. Children participate in teacher-led input sessions and targeted challenges, while also having ample opportunities to explore music independently during Child Initiated Play.

Nursery is equipped with a variety of musical instruments that children can access freely during their learning sessions. To support staff, a specially created song and rhyme book is available, offering a wealth of ideas for engaging musical activities.

Singing is a fundamental part of Nursery life. Staff regularly sing songs and rhymes to reinforce learning across the curriculum—for example, number songs like "Five Little Ducks" to support Maths, and songs like "The Wheels on the Bus" to enhance Knowledge and Understanding of the World.

There are opportunities to play musical instruments inside and in the outdoor area in Nursery.

Reception follows the Charanga Original Music scheme, which employs a half-termly, six-step focus-based approach to support teachers in engaging all children with music. This approach combines adult-led and child-initiated activities through careful planning and play, with a core focus on nursery rhymes and action songs.

Each unit of work is supported by weekly lesson plans and assessments, aligning with cross-curricular or topic-based themes. These units are designed to connect musical learning with the children's developmental stages and real-life experiences. In Terms 1 and 2, the units are flexible, encouraging child-led activities centred around the focus of learning.

In Term 3, "Big Bear Funk" shifts from a focus-based approach to preparing children for Year 1. The final unit, "React, Rewind and Replay," consolidates the year's learning. Musical objectives for Terms 1 and 2 include listening and responding to various styles of music, building foundational skills in pulse, rhythm, and pitch through games, singing nursery rhymes and action songs, improvisation, and playing classroom instruments. Children are also encouraged to share and perform their musical work.

In Key Stage One, pupils participate in weekly, half-hour music lessons aligned with the Model Music Curriculum, using the Charanga music scheme. These lessons focus on developing singing skills and understanding key musical concepts such as rhythm, pulse, pitch, tempo, and dynamics.

Students explore a variety of untuned percussion instruments and, through Charanga, learn to play tuned instruments including the Glockenspiel and recorder. The Glockenspiel has been chosen for its accessibility and adaptability, making it suitable for all pupils, including those with SEND.

Throughout their lessons, children listen to music regularly, beginning to respond and offer opinions about what they hear. They develop their sense of pulse and steady beat, engaging in movement, clapping rhythms (such as their own names), and improvising, composing, and creating simple melodies.

Pupils are also introduced to a range of instruments, including bass guitar, drums, percussion, trumpets, saxophones, and keyboards. Additionally, they explore different musical genres such as Blues, Baroque, Latin Music, Irish Music, Folk, Rock, and Funk, broadening their musical knowledge and appreciation.

Children are encouraged to understand question-and-answer musical structures, as well as to perform and record their music for an audience. This helps develop their confidence and performance skills.

Every year, all children participate in an annual Nativity performance, with parents invited to watch and celebrate their achievements.

In Year 2, pupils learn to play the recorder, gaining foundational skills in a tuned instrument. They also have opportunities to join choir groups during the Spring and Summer terms, fostering teamwork and vocal development.

To culminate their year, children participate in a Year 2 show, providing a final opportunity to showcase their musical and performance skills, celebrating their time at Watford Fields.

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.

Singing plays a vital role in the life of Watford Field Infants. In Nursery, singing helps pupils understand daily routines, with songs indicating story time, home time, and when to sit on the carpet. Wake and Shake songs and dances serve as brain breaks, and songs are integrated into the curriculum to support learning about numbers, shapes, phonics, and the world around them.

In Reception, songs and rhymes continue to enhance the curriculum, with Wake and Shake activities used as brain breaks to keep pupils engaged and energized.

In KS1, singing is incorporated across various subjects. For example, the days of the week and months of the year are learned through songs that Year 1 pupils particularly enjoy. Calming music is also played to help pupils concentrate during activities.

Additionally, the school offers a choir every Thursday lunchtime for Year 2 during the Spring and Summer terms, organized by Anne Graham, the Music lead, providing pupils with a wonderful opportunity to develop their singing talents.

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.

All Reception and KS1 pupils attend weekly singing assemblies to develop their singing skills and learn a variety of songs. They listen to music from around the world, exploring different genres and artists. During the Summer term, children listen to staff-selected music representing genres such as jazz, soul, pop, and rock, learning interesting facts and discussing what they hear.

Each year, Watford Field Infants provides pupils with a wide range of musical experiences, offering opportunities to be both audience members and performers. Reception and KS1 pupils participate in the Harvest assembly, sharing their singing and musical skills with the school community.

At Christmas, Nursery pupils perform songs and play instruments for their parents during the annual nativity show. Reception children also perform their Christmas nativity, which involves singing, drama, and the use of instruments, with parents invited to attend and enjoy the performance. Year 1 and Year 2 pupils also take part in festive performances, welcoming parents as their audience.

Throughout the year, each class hosts an end-of-year Sharing Assembly, showcasing their learning through chants, rhymes, and songs. Year 2 students often participate in a special end-of-year performance, where they write their own scripts, use costumes, and include acting and singing, creating a memorable extravaganza to celebrate their time at Watford Fields.

The school choir performs at the end of each year, celebrating their hard work with a selection of songs, often including popular Disney tunes, bringing the school community together in joyful celebration.

In the future

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

We intend to invite musicians to perform in the Friday assembly will enrich the pupils' musical experiences and showcase a variety of instruments. A letter will be sent out to parents to inform them about these upcoming performances. Additionally, a list of potential performers will be compiled, highlighting the different types of instruments that will be featured, providing an exciting opportunity for pupils and parents to learn about diverse musical instruments and styles.