

HATFIELD COMMUNITY FREE SCHOOL



MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	6/7/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	7/7/26
Name of the school music lead	Adam Nicholls
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts
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.

At Hatfield Community Free School, music is a valued part of the curriculum, with timetabled music lessons across all year. We use the **Charanga Music Scheme**, which is fully aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and provides a carefully

structured, progressive programme of learning. Through the delivery of these weekly lessons, we ensure that all statutory National Curriculum requirements are met.

Pupils' progress is evidenced through lesson observations, class work and progression documents, demonstrating the development of musical knowledge and skills over time. Conversations with pupils show growing confidence in using and recalling key musical vocabulary. Observations also highlight high levels of engagement and participation from all learners, including those with SEND.

The school has a wide range of musical instruments imbedded into our scheme to promote practical music learning and enrich the music curriculum. Our music appreciation programme exposes pupils to a broad range of musical styles, traditions and genres, encouraging listening, discussion and critical reflection. Staff are confident in teaching the key elements of music and in developing pupils' ability to listen thoughtfully, respond to and appreciate a variety of musical works.

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.

At Hatfield Community Free School, we are fortunate to provide a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their musical skills and appreciation of music. Singing forms an important part of school life, with regular opportunities for pupils to learn and perform a variety of songs, building confidence, enthusiasm and enjoyment.

We offer weekly music tuition through iRock, where pupils can learn drums, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and vocals as part of a band setting. We also provide opportunities through our Piano Fun Club, enabling children to develop their keyboard skills and musical understanding. Pupils involved in both programmes take part in termly performances, giving them valuable experience of performing in front of an audience and celebrating their progress. Through our partnership with Onslow St Audrey's School, Year 5 pupils benefited from a term of specialist percussion tuition delivered by the secondary school's Music Lead.

Our vibrant school choir provides further opportunities for children to develop their singing skills and perform regularly throughout the year. Choir members also take part in termly performances, showcasing their hard work and talent to parents, peers and the wider school community.

The school is well-resourced to support high-quality music teaching, with class sets of Boomwhackers, glockenspiels and ukuleles available for use across the curriculum. These instruments provide pupils with hands-on opportunities to develop rhythm, pitch, performance and ensemble skills.

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.

Throughout the year, pupils at Hatfield Community Free School enjoy a rich programme of musical experiences and performance opportunities. Classes learn and practise songs throughout the week before joining together in assembly to sing as a whole school, developing confidence, teamwork and a shared enjoyment of music.

Music is celebrated through a range of performances, including Christmas productions, carols performances, class assemblies, concerts and music showcases, providing pupils with regular opportunities to perform for their peers, families and the wider school community. These events help children develop confidence, resilience and stage presence, while fostering creativity and enjoyment.

Pupils in Year 4 have the opportunity to take part in Young Voices, where they join thousands of children from schools across the country in one of the largest children's choir concerts in the world. This inspiring experience allows pupils to rehearse and perform in a large-scale arena alongside professional musicians and performers, creating lasting memories and further developing their passion for music.

In the future

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

In the years ahead, Hatfield Community Free School will continue to review and refine its music curriculum to ensure it remains engaging, inclusive and aligned with national guidance and best practice. We are committed to further developing pupils' composition, performance and musicianship skills, while continuing to build their confidence and enjoyment of music.

We aim to strengthen our relationship with our local Music Hub, creating additional opportunities for collaboration, workshops, performances and instrumental learning. We also plan to further enhance our extra-curricular offer through the development of an after-school music club, providing more opportunities for pupils to explore music, develop new skills and perform with others.

As part of our commitment to broadening children's musical experiences, we would like to increase opportunities for pupils to attend and experience live musical performances, both within school and in the wider community. Exposure to professional musicians and a variety of musical genres will help inspire pupils and deepen their appreciation of music.

We will continue to develop our choir, singing assemblies and performance opportunities throughout the year, ensuring that all pupils have the chance to perform

and share their achievements with families and the wider community. Furthermore, we will continue to invest in high-quality CPD for staff to strengthen subject knowledge, confidence and expertise in the teaching of music.