

Music development plan summary: Westdale Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	20.09.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	20.09.25
Name of the school music lead	Morwenna Craig
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ruth Kyle
Name of local music hub	Nottinghamshire Music Hub/ Nottingham Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rattle and Roll Performance

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.

<p>Intent</p> <p>At Westdale, our intent is to develop our pupils into confident musicians. In order for this to happen, they must learn, practise and secure the key knowledge. Pupils will be engaged, inspired and develop a love of music. As they learn, they will be given the freedom to become more independent and creative musicians.</p> <p>Implementation</p> <p>We teach music supported by the Charanga scheme of learning. This is used across all year groups so children are familiar with the structure of lessons and the expectations of teachers. Children are able to make links and apply knowledge and skills taught in previous years as they progress. Every child has the opportunity to play</p>
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a glockenspiel every year and in Years 4 and 6 children take part in a musical performance.

Across each year, children complete modules allowing them to sing, explore and understand different styles; learn to read, write and play music following staff notation and to improvise their own pieces. Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014) which states that pupils should be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Lesson structure varies depending on the specific learning intention; however, each begins with a revision or retrieval section focusing on knowledge or skills taught previously to embed these. This is followed by a theory section, introducing the pupils to an aspect of music that they will be able to apply, practise or discuss later in the lesson. The main body of the lesson will then have a singing, playing or composition focus directed by and using resources from Charanga.

We recognise that within our classes there are children with a range of musical abilities and knowledge so ensure our lessons offer open-ended tasks allowing for a variety of responses so all children can feel challenged. This also allows our lessons to be inclusive for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) too. The technology available on Charanga, use of instruments, discussion-based tasks and additional scaffolding provided where needed allows all children to participate and progress well.

Music is taught for at least 1 hour per week every other half term. In addition, weekly singing assemblies take place.

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.

Our students have the opportunity to undertake 1:1 tuition in a range of instruments with teachers from Rattle and Roll such as piano, violin, drums and cello. There is also a recorder club that is currently open to Year 3 and 4 where they play in an ensemble.

From November 2024, children will have the opportunity to be part of School rock bands, organised and coached by Rocksteady.

Keen singers are able to join our school choir who rehearse once a week practising a variety of songs together. They are able to really develop their singing employing the basic skills they have been taught in lessons and are given the opportunity to display this at various performances throughout the first half of the year, including the Nova Transformational Awards. In 2025, we are trying to take our choir to the Young Voices event in Birmingham.

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.

Each week, all children participate in a singing assembly where they learn a great variety of songs, often following a theme such as Harvest Festival or Christmas. They rehearse these as a group and have the opportunity to perform them at free events such as the Christmas show to parents. Children in the choir perform extra songs at these events and will also be attending Young Voices 2025, allowing them to be part of an even larger group of children singing together. Children in years 4 and 6 have an extra opportunity to perform as a year group in their productions. These always have multiple songs which allow the children to sing as a year group, in smaller groups or solos.

All children who learn a musical instrument, both in school with the Rattle and Roll lessons or outside of school, are invited to participate in a showcase in the Summer term where they perform a piece/s they have been working on to parents.

The school does an annual Christmas trip to watch a pantomime where pupils from all year groups are able to enjoy professionals performing to them, demonstrating the singing skills they have learnt in lessons. Additionally, all year groups do a workshop with Partake History some of which include musical elements, for example the World War 2 workshop for year 6.

In the future

As a Trust, we would like to establish a primary choir which will allow children across all the primary schools in the Nova Education Trust to come together and perform at Trust events.

We intend to utilise opportunities available through the Nottinghamshire Music Hub to book workshops focusing on a different instrument e.g. drumming for children in Year 3 and 5 as these groups do not do a production.

We would like to introduce the use of a greater range of instruments into music lessons, the school have a variety of percussion instruments available such as tambourines, triangles and castanets that could be used.

In collaboration with Rattle and Roll, we would like to create a school band who would be able to perform at school events such as the Christmas show.

Further information (optional)

We want our children to move from being novices to become more skilled and knowledgeable musicians and will review this plan yearly in order to provide a high-quality musical education for all our students.

Our full music curriculum can be viewed here:

<https://www.westdalejuniors.co.uk/page.php?d=curriculum&p=music>

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.