

Music development plan summary: Castle Hill Primary School

Castle Hill Primary School ensures that music remains an integral part of our broad and balanced curriculum. It is our intent that our passion for the subject ‘makes mood memories’ that speak to the souls of our pupils. Our inclusive approach encourages all our pupils to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build knowledge, cultural capital and confidence to ready them for their part in democratic society.



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs K Ward
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	n/a
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

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.

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.

Music at Castle Hill is carefully planned for progression and continuity. Our music scheme of work is Charanga, and it complements the curriculum and scaffolds the learning opportunities throughout the key stages. It provides many examples of music styles and genres from different times and an exciting array of cultures.

Vocabulary is 'the root' of all learning at Castle Hill and pupils are taught to use the correct musical language in order to understand and express themselves in this subject.

'Focus listening blocks' enable us to allow for a strong emphasis on Listening and Appraising, so that our children experience music from all around the world and across generations: appreciating the music of all traditions and communities. Alongside Charanga, KS2 children also learn to recognise, understand and use simple formal notation.

All pupils are actively encouraged and given the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, from tuned and un-tuned classroom instruments, to whole class instrumental tuition with visiting peripatetic staff. All children will experience being part of an ensemble; working, composing and performing together. The use of technology and the understanding of appropriate notation will be an integral part of this learning.

As well as tuned percussion, our Y6 children learn to play a variety of samba rhythms as an ensemble in whole class tuition. Similarly, this year, our Y5 will be learning the clarinet as a class.

National Curriculum

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

We have thoroughly reviewed our curriculum in line with the Model Music Curriculum, to develop and strengthen our music provision.

Our curriculum is accessible to all. Charanga is an inclusive tool and offers tools that support all pupils. E.g. Singing in sign, visual cues.

Where needed, teachers tailor lessons to meet pupils' individual needs, ensuring every child, regardless of ability, can participate fully and meaningfully.

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.

In our Singing Assemblies, every Wednesday, pupils and staff look forward to using their voices together to learn and sing songs from different periods of time, genres and areas of our world. These assemblies provide the opportunity for children to experience singing within a mixed-age environment. We celebrate by singing and playing together, appreciating and listening to music during assemblies, performances, musical visits and special events in the calendar.

Our lunchtime school choir club in the Autumn term is a long-standing tradition in our school (at least 10 years!). A large percentage of our Y5/6 children attend this club, which allows staff to teach the exciting range of songs which will then be sung at the eagerly anticipated Young Voices concert in the Spring term.

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.

In addition to planned curricular music, children also have additional music experiences, either as a small group, a class or a larger group. There are regular performing opportunities for our children. These include in-class 'mini concerts', individual/small group performances in assemblies, instrumental ensemble concerts attended by parents, EYFS nativity with singing, carol singing to parents, Y6 leavers' assembly etc.

We have 'set in stone' 10 Opportunities for all our Castle Hill pupils to build their own cultural capital. These opportunities are based on our pupils developing their own EQ using the Packtype behaviour tool.

Pupils have the opportunity to attend the Young Voices concert every year which then culminates in performing in a choir of over 8,000 children to a large audience. A 'mood memory' never to be forgotten! This experience helps our children improve their singing skills, build confidence, and make new friends, and is open to all our Year 5/6 children, regardless of ability.

Music is incorporated into a variety of activities and events within school, such as weekly assemblies, singing assemblies, classroom routines and special celebrations.



8. Recognise the value of practice by playing an instrument.



9. Be prepared to come out of your comfort zone to perform in front of an audience.



In the future

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

- CPD– plan further CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in teaching of improvisation and composition in the classroom, and delivery of curriculum music.
- Music Lead to review assessment data to highlight areas for where children's learning gaps need to be addressed.
- Explore opportunities for an extracurricular drama club that will result in a whole school show at the end of the year.
- Contact Gloucestershire Hub about community links and projects.
- Explore the possibility of more trips, visitors and live streamed opportunities to see live music.

Further information

www.gloucestershiremusic.co.uk

www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people