

The Firs Lower School
School Music Development Plan 25-26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	2/12/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 26
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Wadsworth
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music Education Hub (Central Bedfordshire Council)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Inspiring Music – Local authority school music support.

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.

<p>Music is important because it can provide fulfilment throughout life. It is a powerful, unique form of communication that can change the way pupils feel, think and act. It transcends different cultures, abilities and generations.</p> <p>Listening to and making music fulfils an instinctive human need for self-expression and creativity. It stimulates responses on both emotional and intellectual levels.</p> <p>Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject.</p> <p>Musical activities include performing vocally or with instruments, exploring sounds and composing as well as listening and responding to music of different styles and cultures. All These Activities Involve the musical elements of pitch, duration (rhythm), dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure.</p> <p>Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To give every child the opportunity to experience enjoyment through a variety of musical activities and to respond emotionally.• To help children of all abilities develop positive attitudes and to experience success and satisfaction in music.

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- To develop social skills through cooperation with others in the shared experience of music making.
- To develop an understanding of musical traditions and enhance performance skills by learning and performing music from a variety of cultures.
- To give children the opportunity to perform music both vocally and with instruments.
- To encourage the children to explore a wide range of sounds.
- To give them the opportunity to compose music and express their ideas and feelings through music.
- To experience listening to music from a variety of styles and cultures.
- To develop an appreciation of the richness of our musical heritage.
- To provide an array of performance opportunities, so children can feel part of a community.
- To encourage high standards in performance.
- To encourage children to express ideas and opinions about music they have heard or created.
- To give each child the opportunity to develop their musical talents
- To develop an appropriate vocabulary to help children understand and discuss their own work and that of others.

Implementation

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Firs' [Scheme of Work](#) section on music, that sets out in detail what children in different year groups will be taught and the expectations at the end of each year.

Our school curriculum sets out the knowledge and skills that pupils will gain at each stage. It is clear what end points the curriculum is building towards each year and what children need to know and be able to do.

Musical appreciation is extended by the children being taught about rhythm, pitch and the basic understanding of musical notation. Children are taught to listen and appraise the works of others, to sing, to play simple percussion instruments and to compose music themselves.

The 'Sing Up' scheme is used as the main source of the music curriculum. The school has a variety of instruments from various cultures, music from the internet and live professional performances, which are used to deliver the planned music curriculum.

Extra-curricular opportunities are also an important part of the provision for music made by the school. Children in Year 2, 3 and 4 are given the opportunity to participate in the school choir. Some children receive individual tuition in the violin, piano, and guitar from the Country Peripatetic staff.

Children are encouraged to play their instruments in assembly and to enhance the end of term class productions. Children also perform in the school choir within the local community and take part in an annual 'Christmas Tree Festival' as well as the local 'Big Tent' music festival. This provides the opportunity for children to experience performing to a large audience.

A Curriculum Development and Monitoring Plan is created for each subject including music, that sets out the way we are delivering learning in this curriculum area and developing our provision further.

Impact

Teacher assessments for music will be recorded throughout the year and a final assessment produced at the end of each academic year and recorded on the [music Assessment](#) sheet.

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Formative assessment occurs on a lesson-by-lesson basis determined by the aims.

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 The Firs, we aim to enrich the music curriculum by providing a range of additional and complementary aspects to inspire our young learners to enjoy and seek to develop music experiences and skills.

We offer a range of extra curricular musical tuition which parents can opt to pay for and which take place during the school day. This includes violin and viola, guitar and piano lessons, delivered by very experienced peripatetic teachers.

The school uses the Robin Room, with its own piano as an instrument rehearsal and teaching space. Being located in a quiet room, away from other busy areas, it is perfect for this use.

We have a very active school choir, which is open to children from Y2 upwards (free of charge) which rehearses regularly and performs at key local events such as the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church and other opportunities that occur within the local community during the school year, such as the 'Big Tent' event along with other local schools.

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.

The school seeks to enrich the curriculum with periodic music demonstrations and events including performances by organisations such as 'Inspiring Music', who work in partnership with the local authority and by children from Alameda Middle School and Redborne Upper School.

The peripatetic teachers working within school also work with us to arrange short performance opportunities for children to experience an audience and to play in assemblies, for children and invited parents.

Children take part in a weekly singing assembly, where all the children and teachers sing together; sometimes learning songs for particular events, such as Harvest Festival, Christmas or end of year leavers events.

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From the 25/26 academic year, the school will be resuming the annual music concerts that were curtailed during Covid. These events will give further opportunities for children who learn an instrument with one of our peripatetic teachers in school the chance to perform to an audience, as well as also providing this opportunity for children who learn outside of school. The event will also give the Choir another performance experience which can be shared and enjoyed by parents in school, but the choir also have the opportunity to perform at much larger venues outside the school environment at both the Christmas Tree Festival and the 'Big Tent Event' where there is a large staging area with lights, microphones and a sound deck for the children to experience large scale performances.

All these opportunities will be offered without charge.

In the future

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

- We introduced 'Sing Up' - a new music scheme throughout the school last year and we will continue to monitor this new scheme and build staff expertise, sharing best practice in getting the most from the resources offered.
- Over the next 2 years we will be providing such training and support to staff as is necessary and monitoring the impact of this change to the curriculum, including talking to children about their engagement and enjoyment of music in school.

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 for support beyond the school.

There is a [music hub](#) in each area of the country. A Music Hub is a partnership coordinated by a Hub Lead Organisation (HLO), that is responsible for supporting, delivering and enabling high quality music education for children and young people within a local area.

The Hub programme funds a network of 43 Hub partnerships which cover every area of England. The Arts Council delivers the Hub programme on behalf of the Department for Education.

Music services from Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes have teamed up to launch the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Music Hub from September 2024.

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The 4 music services from Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Council and Milton Keynes City Council, with [Inspiring Music](#) in Central Bedfordshire as the hub lead organisation, jointly applied for grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE). Each service will use its share of funding to coordinate music education in the local area, invest in new musical instruments, equipment and technology tailored to the needs of children and young people, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.