

Music development plan summary: Flax Hill Junior Academy and Lark Infant & Nursery Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	18.10.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.09.25
Name of the school music lead	Charlotte Walters
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Entrust MPAS
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.

Our childrens' curriculum time with our music specialist can be summarised as follows:
Reception - 30 minutes per week, Year 1 - 45 minutes per week, Years 2-6 - 1 hour per week

A link to our school Music Curriculum, tailored specifically for our schools and developed by a music specialist, is available to view [here](#).

Our music specialist is aware of and has fully read the Model Music Curriculum, but our school curriculum is not based on this particular model. We subscribe to Sing Up which is used regularly in lessons, and elements of the Sing Up Curriculum are used in Reception and Key Stage 1. Many of the songs are used to enhance the Key Stage 2 Curriculum.

In summary, all year groups are taught to sing in tune with expression and to use solfege hand signs. They are gradually introduced to the idea of rounds and part songs as they progress through the curriculum. They are taught to read rhythm notation and treble clef staff notation. From Reception to Year 2, the children have access to classroom percussion instruments which are used at various points in their learning. All Year 3 children are taught to play the recorder, all Year 4 children are taught to play the ukulele. In Years 5 and 6, the ukulele and tuned and untuned percussion instruments are used in the lessons where they can enhance the children's learning and also further develop the skills they learnt in previous year groups. All children also have the opportunity to create and compose music at various points in the curriculum and are exposed to a wide range of high quality recorded music. They also hear live music regularly as our music specialist uses the piano in lessons.

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.

For pupils in Years 4 and 5, we offer a weekly 40 minute large group recorder lesson in the form of a Recorder Club, delivered by our music specialist, The cost to parents is £20 per term, free to Pupil Premium/Free School Meals children. We provide the instruments, owned by our school.

For pupils in Years 5 and 6, we offer the opportunity for weekly 25-minute brass lessons (trumpet, trombone, euphonium) in groups of up to 7, delivered by our music specialist who is a trumpet player and experienced brass teacher. The cost to parents is £43 per term, free to Pupil Premium/Free School Meals children. We provide the instruments, owned by our school. We are able to apply for funding from FOSYM for instrumental lessons for children who are not eligible for Pupil Premium but whose families may find it difficult to afford it, and FOSYM are currently supporting some children within our school to have brass lessons.

Our school choir takes place in weekly hour-long sessions after school. Choir is free and open to any Key Stage 2 child who loves to sing. We currently have over 80 children in our choir. Choir is run voluntarily by our music specialist and supported (also voluntarily) by our teaching staff due to the high numbers.

A number of our Flax Hill children attend Tamworth Music Centre fortnightly on Saturday mornings, run by Entrust MPAS, where they take part in the choir and/or the band. This is free for any children who wish to attend and we encourage as many as possible to go so that they can build further on the musical skills they learn within school.

Part C: Musical Performances

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.

At EYFS/KS1 children do a Christmas performance for parents.

Year 2 also do a Leavers performance at Lark Hall before they move up to Flax Hill.

All Key Stage 2 year groups perform a yearly Music Celebration Assembly for parents so that they can showcase what they have been learning and also experience performing. They also perform at least two songs to parents each Christmas.

As part of our Year 6 curriculum, the children prepare and perform a musical to parents at the end of the school year. We choose a full musical from sources such as MTI Europe to make sure the children have the opportunity to take part in a show of a high standard with high quality singing, acting and choreography. Our last three shows have been Joseph, Matilda and Aladdin. We do not charge parents for tickets, but we do fundraise via the PTA for the cost of the licence and ask for informal donations at concerts.

Our Choir and instrumental learners also perform regularly - two concerts per year within school and at various events in the community where possible. Our choir performed at St Editha's Church in December 2023 and we recently took our Year 6 choir children to perform at a local care home (October 2024).

In the future

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

In the future, we would like to link up further with our local music hub by extending the instrumental provision to include woodwind and strings tuition from specialists from Entrust. This will eventually allow us to form an orchestra.

Re-introducing singing in weekly assemblies is also something we are looking to do.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education has published a [guide for parents and young people](#) which provides further information about how you can get involved in music in and out of school, and where you can go to for support beyond the school.

More information about music hubs can be found here: [Music Hubs | Arts Council England](#)