

Meldreth Primary School Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Claudia McGinty
Name of local music hub	Cambridgeshire Music Education Hub (CMEH)

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 Meldreth, our school music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021) and we use the Charanga scheme of work to support staff in developing expertise in this field.

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.

The intention is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. Each class teacher uses the scheme and adapts it to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school. Sequencing and progression are clear.

We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music. Charanga's Music scheme has been designed as a spiral curriculum with the following key principles in mind:

Cyclical: Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge again and again during their time in primary school.

Increasing depth: Each time a skill or area of knowledge is revisited it, is covered with greater depth.

Prior knowledge: Upon returning to a skill, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Pupils are taught musical notation and how to compose music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument. As children progress through the school, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music.

Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together. We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds.

Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

In accordance with the National Curriculum, we ensure that coverage of knowledge and skills is developed sequentially throughout the school. We have adopted the Charanga Scheme, to ensure that children receive quality music lessons throughout the year – we cover one unit per half-term. Music is taught as a discrete lesson usually lasting 45 mins per week.

We take a holistic approach to music, in which the individual strands below are woven together to create engaging and enriching learning experiences:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- The inter-related dimensions of music

Each unit combines these strands within a cross-curricular topic designed to capture pupils' imagination and encourage them to explore music enthusiastically. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole-body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

During music lessons, children are given opportunities to learn music-specific vocabulary in a meaningful context. The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children are able to use the language of music to discuss it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. They will learn to recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music - pitch, duration,

tempo, timbre, structure, texture and dynamics - and use these expressively in their own improvisations and compositions. The children are given opportunities to apply their skills and given a chance for collaboration through composition.

Lesson Delivery – Within each music session there will be the following elements:

1. A clear Learning Objective with focused Success Criteria (some of which may be one or two of the Unit Success Criteria) which is used by both the teacher and the children to assess the lesson's work;
2. A recap or introduction starter which addresses prior learning or a game. It could also include attention grabbing starters that introduce the children to the theme of the music unit.
3. The children then are exposed to new learning or learning in their sequence and how it fits within our theme of work.
4. The children are then prompted with various assessment questions and questions to get them thinking a little deeper about the skills they have learnt.

Over the course of a unit, the lessons taught will include performance, composition, specific listening tasks, and giving and listening to appraisal and constructive criticism. At least part of each music session involves whole class activities with the opportunity for group work. Charanga's Music spiral curriculum allows for revisiting and consolidating skills. Progression plans and resources support children to build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge.

Music in EYFS - We teach music in Early Years as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts and Design. Music contributes to a child's development in all other areas of learning. Children's standards and achievements in Music are assessed in line with the EYFSP.

Model music curriculum - The DfE's Model Music Curriculum states that: 'In Years 3 or 4, it is recommended that each class should start a whole-class instrumental programme lasting a minimum of one term...Opportunities for development should continue beyond the mandatory term.' Children at Meldreth Primary are taught a whole class instrumental programme for recorders from Year 3. They continue developing this skill (along with the use of tuned and untuned percussion) throughout KS2. This range of instruments supports the children in developing the different principles of creating notes, as well as how to devise and read their own musical scores and basic music notation.

Adaptation - We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Setting open-ended tasks which could have a variety of responses;

- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks);
- Grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group;
- Providing resources depending on the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

SEND - We strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach ensures that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons and explicit instruction. Scaffolding enables all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Assessment - On-going Assessment for Learning (AfL) practices within class and group sessions, including the sharing of and reference being made to Learning Objective and Success Criteria and self and peer assessments of understanding, outcomes and progress. We often film the final lesson in a sequence to support teachers in assessing children's progress. Children who are showing a greater depth understanding are signposted to external musical programmes.

At the end of the year, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the musical skills and development of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum or Foundation Stage Framework, which is recorded in the end-of-year report and on FFT.

Resources - We have a range of percussion instruments. There is a central store of:

- large percussion instruments
- smaller percussion – e.g.: shakers, bells, triangles
- selections of instruments from other cultures
- xylophones & glockenspiels
- recorders
- drums

School iPads are installed with applications which enable them to be used as instruments and for composition.

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 KS1, children are able to take part in Performing Arts Club, which includes playing percussion instruments, singing and the development of musical understanding through dance.

In KS2, children are able to take part in Performing Arts Club or Signing Choir.

Children across the years are able to access peripatetic music lessons in piano, guitar and drums.

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 curriculum time for music, children also have additional musical experiences, sometimes the whole school together, sometimes individually, which occur during the school year and contribute to the overall planning and time allocation for music.

Across all key stages, children have a range of opportunities to experience live musical theatre performances and to take part in musical performances.

EYFS and KS1 – Nativity Play, Harvest Assembly

Years 3 and 4 – Harvest Assembly, Christmas Carol Concert, Spring Term Play

Years 5 and 6 – Harvest Assembly, Christmas Carol Concert, Summer Term Play

Choir and Signing Choir – PTA Christmas Fayre Performance, Church Summer Fete Performance, Maycroft Care Home: Christmas and Summer Performances.

Opportunities are used for musical experiences through a range of activities in other subjects to enable children to apply and use Music in real life and academic contexts e.g. Times Tables, History, R.E.

Visitors are also used to enhance the music curriculum where appropriate e.g. Drumming Workshop

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

The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition. Parents and carers actively support music making, through support at events and through home learning.

In the future

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

CPD and capacity planning – plan to increase staff confidence delivering high quality music lessons in the classroom.

Link with the Music Hub – to develop capacity and musical opportunities

Performance opportunities – continue to promote and evaluate the range of performance opportunities for children in school and beyond for parents to attend.

Musical engagement with feeder secondary schools– look for opportunities to work with feeder secondary school for transition.

Additional funding from hub/charities/fundraising – work proactively try to find additional funding for music (e.g. HSA; local charities; fundraising in school from performances etc.)

