

Music development plan summary:

Roundwood Primary



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Holly Byfield
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hannah Smith
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	-

Part A: Curriculum music

Vision and Intent

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Roundwood Primary, we are committed to delivering a high-quality music education that engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, thereby increasing their self-confidence, creativity, and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon. Our curriculum, informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), is designed so that pupils perform, listen to, review, and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles, and traditions, including the works of great composers and musicians.

Our 6-year cycle of 'Musician of the Month' creates a culture of musical appreciation and understanding within our school. We focus on a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music, carefully drawn from different traditions, composers and musicians. The musicians link to the Equality Act to encourage respect and so every child sees themselves and others as a potential musician.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils receive at least one hour of music teaching each week, which may take the form of short sessions spread across the week.

In the Foundation Stage, pupils explore and engage in a variety of musical activities. From the very beginning, they listen to sounds, play percussion instruments, and use their imagination in response to music. The pupils have a range of instruments they can independently access during their 'discover and learn' time, providing opportunities to create their own music. They are exposed to a wide range of music from different global and cultural backgrounds and are encouraged to express their own feelings and emotions in response to various musical pieces.

As pupils move through school, they can listen to and perform music in assemblies and productions, sharing musical experiences with their peers and learning the art of performance. Regular opportunities to sing as a class and as a school teach pupils to value their voices and share in the pleasure of collective singing. Cultural musical influences are also explored, and pupils experience music from a range of historical periods and from around the world, learning about its cultural heritage, geographical provenance, and the way it shaped the lifestyle of the time.

The school is equipped with a wide range of instruments, and during their time with us, pupils will learn to play various tuned and untuned percussion instruments, such as the keyboard, cello, recorder, and steel pans. Through immersive experiences in performing at concerts—both within the school, as part of the Harpenden Schools' Music Association, and in broader community groups—pupils experience the joy that music can bring to others.

As recommended by the Model Music Curriculum, in Years 3 and 4 each class starts a whole-class instrumental programme. From Year 3, pupils learn to play the recorder. Year 4 pupils have cello lessons for one term, taught by a peripatetic teacher, with the opportunity to continue with one-to-one lessons beyond the mandatory term. In Year 5, pupils have steel pan lessons once a term with a peripatetic teacher. Then, in Year 6, they can continue playing steel pans in an after-school club. This means that across the key stage all pupils learn to play three tuned instruments.

In Key Stage 2, all pupils have the opportunity to perform at the O2 as part of a Young Voices performance or at the Royal Albert Hall as part of a combined Hertfordshire Schools' Music Gala group and most do. They can also participate in local music competitions such as the St Albans Musician of the Year.

We have access to the Hertfordshire Music Service and a Sing Up Membership to support pupils singing and musical learning and progression.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music Tuition and Opportunities at Roundwood Primary School

At Roundwood Primary School, we offer music tuition outside of regular lesson time to enhance our pupils' musical development. This includes one-to-one, small-group, and large-group tuition for various instruments and voice.

Individual and Small-Group Tuition:

As part of our external clubs, pupils have the opportunity to receive one-to-one music lessons at school. These include cello lessons with our peripatetic teacher, as well as flute and brass lessons provided by teachers from the Hertfordshire Music Service. Parents can contact the cello teacher directly to book lessons; she hires the music room from the school and parents pay her directly. Flute and brass lessons are booked directly through the Hertfordshire Music Service, with parents arranging payment through them.

Ensembles and Group Music-Making:

Pupils can join several ensembles outside of lesson time, allowing them to engage in collective music-making and develop their skills further.

1. We offer **Choir**: Open to 25 Key Stage 2 pupils, the choir meets once a week as an after-school club. There is a fee of £30 per term for participation. However, if any family is unable to pay, they are encouraged to contact the school to discuss possible support.
2. **Orchestra**: This ensemble is for pupils who have achieved Grade 1 or above in their instrument. It is open to 15 pupils and also meets once a week. The fee is £25 per term, with the same support available for families who may need financial assistance.

Progression in Music Outside Lesson Time:

To ensure pupils can progress in their musical journey, we offer various opportunities and support:

- **Instrument Loans**: Hertfordshire Music Service provide instruments for loan to support pupils who may not have access to their own instruments, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to practice and improve.
- **Rehearsal Spaces**: Pupils can rehearse or practice individually or in groups in the music room, which is available for booking.
- **Holiday Provision**: We encourage pupils to participate in music centres and workshops during weekends and holidays and promote these within our Community Newsletters. These sessions help pupils refine their skills and explore new musical interests.

Charges and Remissions Information:

We strive to make music education accessible to all pupils.

- **Tuition Fees**: For one-to-one cello lessons, parents pay the peripatetic teacher directly. The choir club charge £30 per term and orchestra £25 per term. Families experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the school to discuss possible fee remissions or support, particularly if they are eligible for pupil premium.
- **Subsidies**: We offer subsidies and support for parents or carers in particular circumstances to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to participate in musical activities.

Joining Choirs or Ensembles:

Pupils interested in joining the choir or orchestra can do so from Key Stage 2. Information about joining these groups is communicated at the beginning of each term, and parents can sign up their children through the school office or directly with the club leaders.

By offering these opportunities, we aim to foster a love for music in our pupils and provide them with the skills and confidence to excel in their musical endeavours.

Part C: Musical experiences

At Roundwood Primary School, we teach a well-sequenced, broad, and balanced curriculum where creativity and challenge are woven through each subject. We plan enriching experiences to enhance pupils' learning in every year group. These experiences may include workshops in school, activities utilising our large, varied school grounds, and opportunities offsite, such as local curriculum-themed walks, off-site trips, and residential. We also seek ways of building relationships with our local community and learning from others' rich knowledge and expertise. Additionally, we offer an extensive range of after-school clubs to all pupils and hold sports fixtures throughout the year, providing a wide range of musical activities for children to participate in, regardless of their ability.

Internal musical events include weekly music assemblies for Years 1-6, where the choir, orchestra and steel pans group also have opportunities to perform. We offer a weekly after-school choir club open to all interested KS2 pupils, and a weekly orchestra club for pupils who are Grade 1 or above, led by a peripatetic teacher.

In terms of musical performances, during the autumn term, Nursery pupils perform festive songs, Reception pupils present a Christmas-themed play, and Year 1 and Year 2 pupils perform a Christmas play. In the spring term, Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) pupils perform a play, and in the summer term, Year 6, perform a play. Pupils from Reception to Year 6 participate as members of the audience for the dress rehearsals of these plays.

We also host several musical concerts. For instance, every year, Electric Umbrella performs for our pupils and staff, allowing them to interact with the charity's learning-disabled musicians, encouraging singing, dancing, and fun. Roundwood Park Secondary School pupils perform in assemblies for our students, and our pupils from Reception to Year 6 are audience members for a professional Christmas pantomime performance. Additionally, Years 1-4 pupils participate in a Samba drumming workshop.

Externally, Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to perform at the O2 as part of a Young Voices performance and at the Royal Albert Hall as part of a combined Hertfordshire Schools' Music Gala group. They can also participate in local music competitions, such as the St Albans Musician of the Year.

These planned experiences ensure that our pupils have diverse and enriching musical opportunities throughout their time at Roundwood Primary School, fostering their love for music and enhancing their overall educational experience.

In order to be inclusive, the school makes any adaptions required to ensure that pupils with additional needs can access the full music offer. In addition, we target pupils which attract the pupil premium grant so that they can take part.

Whenever a pupil achieves an external accreditation for music such as Associated Board exams, we celebrate this in assemblies.

Charges and Remissions Information:

We strive to make musical events and experiences accessible to all pupils.

- **Charging information** There is no charge made for experiences held at school, although we may ask for a voluntary contribution. We follow our charging and remissions policy for educational visits (such as Young Voices) which are held outside of school hours.
- **Pupil premium eligibility** Families experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the school to discuss possible fee remissions or support, particularly if they are eligible for pupil premium.
- **Subsidies:** We offer support for parents or carers in particular circumstances to ensure that all pupils can participate in musical events and experiences

In the future

- Become more familiar with reasonable adjustments as required.
- Provide bespoke CPD for staff who need it.
- Strengthen links with local secondary schools.