

Redbourn Primary School- Music Development Plan 2025 2026

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Francesca Turner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Emma Fenn
Name of local music hub	Herts Music Service

Curriculum Music

Early Years Foundation Stage

We encourage the development of children's artistic imagination and creativity and music in the Early Years is taught using the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. In EYFS, we use Development Matters to support planning for 'Expressive Arts and Design' which music comes under but also falls with 'Creating with Materials' and 'Being Imaginative'. This learning forms the foundations for later work in music. However, musical experiences are also an integral part of the 'Communication and Language' and 'Literacy' areas of the EYFS curriculum. These early experiences include listening to and singing a repertoire of songs, copying sounds and rhythms, expressing their thoughts and feelings after listening to music, playing instruments with increasing control, improvise their own songs, take part in performances. All children in the EYFS will have the opportunity to explore and play a range of percussion instruments, untuned and tuned where appropriate, within their learning environment. We provide a range of experiences that encourage exploration, observation, critical thinking and discussion. These activities, indoors and outdoors, attract the children's interest and curiosity.

Years 1-6

To enhance our teaching of music, we use the Charanga Music scheme from Year 1 through to Year 6 (see curriculum overview document). Key areas of learning are; listening, singing, playing, improvising, composing and performing. Children are actively involved in a wide range of musical opportunities, during their music lessons. They develop their singing voices, learn to handle and play percussion instruments and use body percussion in order to express their own music and that of others. This is accomplished via a range of whole class, group and individual activities. Children explore sounds, listen, compose and perform. During Year 3, children will learn to play the recorder in small groups of eight with a specialist music teacher from Herts Music Service.

As children progress through the Charanga scheme they will continue to sing, play tuned and un-tuned instruments, listen to recorded and live music, and compose and improvise using the interrelated dimensions of music. They will learn about music history, exploring a range of musical styles and traditions, while using and understanding staff and other notations.

Charanga Musical School Units of Work enable children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. It gives children the opportunity to embed a deeper learning, knowledge, understanding and skills. Musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear and the teaching is part of the learning spiral. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Repeating a musical skill doesn't necessarily mean their progress is slowing down or their development is moving backwards! It's just shifting within the spiral. Mastery means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

Music is timetabled for one session (of at least 30 minutes) biweekly in Key Stage 1 and weekly in Key Stage 2 every other term (45 minute sessions). Children in Key Stage 1 are taught by their class teacher, with Key Stage 2 being taught by a specialist music teacher.

Ensuring differentiation and access to learning for all is a fundamental and core element of inclusion. To enable all pupils to make good and sustained progress in music by ensuring that the challenge of learning opportunities always accords with the ability of each pupil. Therefore, in our differentiation planning we take due regard of factors such as classroom organisation, learning materials and the learning environment. We ensure inclusion through constructing enquiries which are graduated in 'bite size' steps allowing for the setting of personalised targets and a broad range of learning and teaching strategies including questioning and working with additional adults where appropriate.

Extra-Curricular Music

We have a Key Stage 2 choir which rehearses all year round at lunch times, led by Miss Toms our Music Specialist Teacher and sometimes by the Headteacher.

The children enjoy singing in performances with schools from the local consortium as part of the Harpenden Schools Music Association. In addition, the choir has annual schedule of community performances in Redbourn and St Albans, bringing music to the elderly, raising money for charity or participating in village life, such as Christmas markets and Redbourn Festival.

All Key Stage 2 children enjoy learning traditional carols and new Christmas songs for our annual carol service in St Mary's Church.

All children in Year 3 learn to play the recorder in small groups of 8 throughout the entire year and perform to parents in a special annual recorder assembly. These lessons are funded by the school and are free of charge to parents. The lessons are delivered by Miss Larbey from Herts Music Service (HMS). Children in Year 4 can continue to play in a free of charge weekly recorder club.

We have peripatetic teachers from Herts Music Service offering woodwind (recorder, flute, clarinet) and piano instrumental lessons. As well as a private guitar teacher, offering group and individual lessons. All three instrumental teachers showcase the children's progression in an annual assembly to parents. We sign post parents to funding support, such as remission of fees (more information on our music page of the website in the parent's section).

At Redbourn, we work with other schools in our Harpenden Schools Consortium to develop our music curriculum further, the Headteacher attends all committee meetings and is instrumental in the running of the joint school events. Our music specialist teacher attends all these events and accompanies on the piano. Children have the opportunity to meet with other consortium schools to sing at annual festival such as the Spring Festival and Christmas Carol service annually.

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.

Children from Reception to Years 6 also have the opportunity to learn a repertoire of songs during their weekly singing assembly and perform on any instrument in Key Stage 2 at the end of the assembly and have the opportunity to perform them to visitors and parents during special assemblies such as Easter or Harvest. These songs are chosen to ensure they are engaging for the key stage and in line with the season or events. We have staff who are confident to lead singing sessions and the children learn a range of songs, both modern and traditional.

Each class delivers with annual sharing assembly, which will include singing. Year groups taking part in Christmas assemblies/ performances. Year 3 hold an assembly to share what they have learned in the recorder sessions with their parents. Other years groups watch this to hopefully be inspired.

Our Key Stage 2 choir perform at Summer Fair, Open Evening, Redbourn Festivals at Christmas and Summer, Open Evenings, Spring Festival, Carol Concerts, Numerous singalongs at local Care Homes. Our whole school watches many of these events to be inspired.

New this year, Year 4 recorder club and Maypole Dancing Club have performed at Open Evening.

In the future

- In the future, as more children learn to play a musical instrument, we are looking to have more ensembles such as an orchestra.
- We are looking to create more spaces for more peripatetic music teachers.
- We are looking to offer more school trips of a musical nature, such as to local theatres to see musicals.
- We plan to have a Key Stage 1 Year 2 choir in the future.
- We plan to organise an enrichment music day for Samba Drumming or African Drumming.
- Continue to develop the role of the subject leader.