

Music Development Plan Summary: Chalton Lower School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	7 th September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	7 th September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Miss Amanda Muller
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Natalie Bill
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music

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.

Music at Chalton Lower School is taught in all classes from The Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 4. We aim to develop the pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding in music through a wide range of teaching styles. These include: actions and dance, whole class work, small group work and individual work. Staff work together to ensure music progression is evident throughout the school and that the pupils build on what they have been taught in previous years.

Our music curriculum allows:

- Pupils to develop their performance skills through learning to play tuned and untuned instruments, singing a variety of songs and rehearsing and performing with others.
- Pupils to develop their composing skills through creating musical patterns and exploring and organising sounds and learning to record these in a variety of ways.
- Pupils to learn to analyse and compare sounds, explore ideas and make improvements to their work, building on their appraising skills.
- Pupils to learn to listen with increased concentration to internalise and recall sounds.

Teachers plan music lessons using the Charanga music scheme. This scheme has a half-termly, focus-based approach to support teachers in engaging all our pupils during music lessons. These lessons include a variety of adult led and independent activities.

Over the course of the scheme, the pupils will be taught how to sing fluently and expressively and play instruments accurately and with control. They will learn to recognise and name interrelated dimensions of music.

Each unit of work has a cross curricular focus and a musical focus, which allows the pupils to progress in music throughout their Lower School experience. Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are individually supported in class depending on their various requirements. For example, ear defenders will be provided when music lessons are louder than average, 1:1 adult support will be provided if needed, content can be broken down into smaller steps if required and teacher's will differentiate their lessons and use planning and resources to challenge all pupils depending on their ability.

We have taken into consideration the Department for Education Model Music Curriculum Recommendations (2021) and ensure that all our pupils are taught at least 1 hour of music per week. Year 3 and Year 4 will be taught to play a different musical instrument each year through specialist teaching from a music teacher from Inspiring Music our Local Music Hub.

In addition to our music scheme as part of the music curriculum entitlement, all pupils attend daily assemblies where they get the opportunity to listen, sing and perform to music.

We have a dedicated assembly once per week to support the children with learning new songs and practising previously learnt songs. The children are taught about the tempo of music and how to sing in multiple parts.

All children also take part in singing for our Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day service, Easter and Christmas performances. The pupils in Years 3 and 4 also have dedicated singing lessons taught by Inspiring Music and attend the Sing Up music concert at The Grove Theatre in Dunstable each summer. Our Early Years children have the opportunity to complete a unit of work on using cups. This develops their early musical knowledge about beat, tempo, composition and dynamics.

At Chalton Lower School, we understand the importance and joy music can bring to the young children we teach.

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.

Outside of our core music curriculum, we offer a range of musical opportunities at Chalton Lower School.

In school, we offer:

- Whole school singing and choir in assemblies.
- A range of musical instruments.
- Showcase assemblies throughout the academic year led by Inspiring Music staff.
- Annual whole school performances at Harvest, Remembrance, Easter and Christmas.

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, the pupils also have additional musical experiences which occur during the school year and contribute to the overall planning and time allocation for music. These consist of the following:

- Daily assemblies where the pupils have the opportunity to listen, sing and perform to different genres of music.
- Yearly Harvest Festival performance where all pupils sing and perform. (October each year)
- Yearly trip to the pantomime at The Grove Theatre where the pupils get to experience people performing, playing instruments and singing. (December each year)
- Yearly Christmas production where all the pupils get the chance to sing and perform. (December each year)
- Yearly celebration at Easter where all pupils sing and perform songs to parents.
- Sing Up Concert. Yearly participation for Year 3 and Year 4 pupils where they get the opportunity to sing with other local schools to an audience at The Grove Theatre. (July each year)
- End of Year Assembly for Year 4 pupils where they perform an end of year show to the whole school and parents/carers. (July each year)
- The opportunity to listen to music at lunchtime play throughout the summer term.
- One off music and dance sessions linked to special themes or celebrations such as Diwali or Christmas.
- Dance sessions in PE where the children have the opportunity to move to music in different ways and think about how the music makes them feel.

In the future

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

To continue improvements across the school in music:

- We will ask members of the local community to play their instrument during assembly so that the children can experience how different instruments are played and how they sound.
- We will be extending the range of different musical experiences e.g. music from different cultures.
- We will seek to investigate offering individual peripatetic tuition led by a trained specialist teacher from Inspiring Music.
- We will continue to review the 2-year music curriculum cycle, once fully delivered.
- We will consider how we can provide recorder or ocarina lessons for our children in Year 1 and Year 2.

Further information (optional)

Collaboration - The school buys into the Inspiring Music service and we participate in the Sing Up concert each year with other schools in the local area.

Inclusion - As part of the package we purchase from Inspiring Music, the children engage in the 'Head Start' strategy. This is an initial session built into the start of each project. It is designed to support children who may experience barriers to engaging positively with Inspiring Music's whole class provision.

This can include, but is not limited to pupils who are:

- Children with SEND or SEMH needs
- Looked after children
- Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL)
- Pupils displaying challenging behaviour
- Pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) or pupil premium (PP)

CPD - We value the importance of quality first teaching and recognise the need for teachers to have a strong subject knowledge in music. Ongoing CPD is provided to teachers in the form of teacher videos for each music unit throughout the Charanga scheme. Teachers of classes who receive whole class instrumental tuition will take part in the music lessons and develop their own subject knowledge through learning a musical instrument alongside the class.