Music Development Plan Summary: Cassiobury Infant and Nursery School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01/11/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01/10/27
Name of the school music lead	Mrs D Woodley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Herts Music Hub
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.

EYFS

In EYFS, musical activities are planned as part of the Expressive Arts and Design curriculum using the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework and Development Matters. Pupils access teacher led input sessions and focused challenges as well as having the opportunity to explore music during Busy Learning Time. Each classroom has a music area with a variety of instruments that are available during Busy Learning Time and there is also a 'reclaimed' music making area in both the Nursery and Reception gardens.

Each week, pupils in both Nursery and Reception learn about and listen to a different instrument as part of our 'Music of the Week'. Pupils watch videos of the instrument being played and talk about what they can see and hear. A wide range of instruments are covered over the year including instruments from different cultures and some

unusual instruments, for example the marble machine. Pupils are also introduced to different genres of music as they listen to an accordion playing folk music, a saxophone playing jazz music and a trombone playing western classical music.

Nursery children learn a variety of chants and rhymes through 'Rhyme Time', a phonics session, three times a week, focusing on a particular rhyme and letter sound.

Reception children learn a variety of chants and rhymes through their daily Poetry Basket sessions. Reception children also attend singing assembly each week in the summer term, where they learn to sing a variety of different songs and practise their singing skills.

Key Stage One

In Key Stage One, pupils have weekly, half-hour music lessons. These follow the Model Music Curriculum and we use the Charanga music scheme as part of our lessons. Pupils learn to sing a variety of songs and are taught key musical concepts including rhythm, pulse and pitch. Pupils in KS1 use untuned percussion instruments and also learn, through Charanga, to play the Chime Bars (a tuned percussion instrument). We chose Chime Bars as they are very accessible and can be easily adapted to suit the needs of all pupils, including those pupils with SEND.

KS1 pupils also attend a weekly singing assembly where they practise their singing skills and learn a variety of songs. Children learn actions for the songs, making the assembly accessible for all pupils.

Music of the Week in KS1 focuses on a genre of music, rather than an instrument. Each week, pupils listen to a different genre (jazz, soul, pop, rock etc.). Pupils learn a few facts about the genre or artist and talk about what they can hear.

We have links with Cassiobury Junior School and Nascot Wood Infant School. The Junior School Brass Band and choir visit annually to perform to our students in assembly. An annual Singing Festival is held with Nascot Wood Infant School where Year 1 children from both schools come together to have fun singing, performing known songs and learning new songs together whilst improving their singing skills.

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.

Each year, we organise a creative focus week, where pupils focus on English, PE, art and music.

Singing is an important part of life at Cassiobury Infant and Nursery school.

In Nursery, singing is used to help pupils to understand the daily routine and there are songs to indicate story time, home time and when it is time to sit down on the carpet. Wake and Shake songs and dances are used as brain breaks and songs are used regularly as part of the curriculum. Pupils learn a variety of songs and rhymes to support their learning of numbers, shapes, phonics and to learn about the world around them.

In Reception, songs and rhymes enhance the curriculum, and Wake and Shake songs and dances are used as brain breaks.

In KS1, songs are used across the curriculum, for example the Continents song which Year 1 particularly enjoy singing as part of their geography learning. Calming music can be played to help pupils to focus on an activity.

Across the school, pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding are also offered additional opportunities through Nurture groups. These activities include exploring instruments, cooking, construction and craft activities.

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.

Each year, we offer pupils a variety of musical experiences and the chance to be audience members and performers.

Reception and KS1 pupils take part in the Harvest assembly. They perform songs that they have learnt to visitors from a local church.

At Christmas, Nursery perform songs and play instruments to their parents at the annual nativity show. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visit St. Luke's Church to perform their Christmas songs.

Each class performs a Sharing Assembly to their parents each year, where they showcase what they have been learning. This often includes chants, rhymes and songs.

Key Stage 1 children have the opportunity to perform in an annual show. Year 1 perform the Spring Extravaganza in the spring term and Year 2 perform their end of year musical in the summer term. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have the opportunity to be audience members at the dress rehearsals of these shows.

All Reception and Key stage 1 pupils have the opportunity to see live music at the annual pantomime visit. This is offered at a reduced rate for pupils who are eligible for pupil premium funding.

As part of the transition to the Junior School, Year 2 children have the opportunity to visit the Junior School to watch the dress rehearsal of the Year 3 performance.

In the future

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

This year, we will hold the annual Singing Festival with Nascot Wood Infant School. We will plan a pantomime visit at Christmas and performances for each year group throughout the year. We are looking forward to exploring a range of musical activities in our Creative Focus Week in the autumn term.