

Music development plan summary: Watling Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Imogen Day
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Grace Burrows
Name of local music hub	MK Music Hub

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 Watling Primary School, we aim to engage, inspire and nurture all pupils to develop a lifelong love and appreciation of music. We embrace creativity and self-expression, enabling children to experience enjoyment, achievement and personal growth through music. We recognise the positive impact that music can have on pupils' confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging, and this is fostered through curriculum lessons, weekly singing assemblies, performances, concerts and instrumental opportunities.

Music is taught weekly across Key Stages 1 and 2, with pupils receiving a minimum of one hour of curriculum music each week. We use Music Express to support the delivery of a broad, progressive and inclusive music curriculum which closely reflects the ambitions of the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). Through singing, listening, composing, improvising, performing and playing instruments, pupils progressively develop their musical knowledge, skills and understanding.

Our curriculum is designed to be accessible to all learners. Teachers adapt learning and provide appropriate support to ensure that pupils with SEND can fully participate

and make progress in music. Opportunities for practical, collaborative and multisensory learning enable all children to experience success and develop their musical potential.

Details of the music curriculum for each year group are published on our school website.

In addition to weekly curriculum music lessons:

Year 2 pupils have the option to participate in projects delivered in partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub, including opportunities to learn brass and string instruments.

Year 5 pupils take part in a year-long whole-class keyboard programme delivered in partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub.

All pupils regularly develop their singing skills through assemblies, performances and special events both at school and in the local community throughout the year.

These partnerships enrich our curriculum and provide pupils with high-quality opportunities to develop instrumental skills, perform with others and experience a wider musical education.

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.

In addition to the curriculum music offer, Watling Primary School provides a range of opportunities for pupils to develop their musical interests, skills and talents beyond lesson time.

Children are exposed to a diverse range of music from around the world and across different historical periods through a planned listening programme during assemblies. This develops their musical knowledge, cultural understanding and appreciation of a wide variety of musical styles and traditions.

Through our partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub and other agencies, pupils can access a variety of instrumental and vocal tuition. Opportunities currently include:

- Year 2 ELFIN projects in strings and brass.
- Individual and small-group instrumental lessons for Key Stage 2 pupils, including strings and woodwind instruments.
- Rocksteady in-school band lessons, allowing pupils to learn guitar, bass, keyboards, drums or vocals as part of a band.

Pupils can further develop their musical skills through participation in a range of ensembles and performance opportunities, including:

- School Choir, open to pupils across Key Stage 2.
- School performances and productions in all year groups.
- Performances within the local community, including Christmas celebrations, fairs, carnivals and other community events.
- Arts and music-related after-school clubs, which may include singing, drama and musical performance opportunities.
- The school actively encourages pupils to perform and experience live music. Opportunities include participation in events such as Young Voices, Rocksteady concerts, music festivals and visits to professional musical performances and theatre productions.

Through these opportunities, pupils can develop their musical skills progressively, gain confidence as performers and experience the social benefits of making music with others. Where possible, we work with families and external providers to ensure that opportunities remain accessible to all pupils. Support is considered for disadvantaged pupils and those facing financial barriers, helping ensure that every child can participate fully in the musical life of the school.

Our partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub plays an important role in extending musical opportunities beyond the classroom, providing access to specialist teaching, instrumental learning and wider performance experiences.

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.

At Watling Primary School, we believe that every child should experience the joy of making, performing and listening to music. Throughout the academic year, pupils participate in a wide range of musical experiences that enrich the curriculum and develop confidence, creativity and performance skills.

Singing is a central part of school life. All pupils take part in weekly singing assemblies, where they learn and perform a broad repertoire of songs. Singing is also incorporated across the curriculum and used to support learning in a variety of subjects.

All pupils have regular opportunities to perform to their peers, parents, carers and the wider community. Performance opportunities take place throughout the year and may include:

- EYFS Nativity performances.
- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Christmas concerts.
- End-of-year performances in Year 6.
- Class assemblies and showcase events in all year groups.
- School concerts and musical performances.
- Rocksteady concerts to other children and families.
- Community events, including local carol singing and celebrations.

These opportunities ensure that pupils from all year groups can experience performing before an audience and develop their confidence as musicians and performers.

We are committed to exposing pupils to a wide range of live and high-quality musical experiences. Through our partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub and other local organisations, pupils have opportunities to watch and engage with visiting musicians, ensembles and performers. Recent and planned experiences include:

- Live performances and roadshows delivered by Milton Keynes Music Hub.
- Performances by local secondary school musicians and ensembles.
- Demonstration concerts showcasing a range of instruments.
- Opportunities to attend professional musical performances and theatre productions.
- Participation in large-scale musical events such as Young Voices.

Where possible, the school subsidises musical experiences and works to ensure that no child is excluded from participation due to financial circumstances. Support is available for families where appropriate, helping all pupils to access the rich musical opportunities offered throughout the year.

Through these experiences, pupils develop an appreciation of different musical styles and cultures, gain inspiration from professional performers and build a lifelong engagement with music.

In the future

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

Over the next academic year, we aim to further strengthen and enrich our music provision by:

- Mapping a Musician of the Month to mirror the recommendations and repertoire suggested within the Model Music Curriculum, ensuring pupils are exposed to a broad and diverse range of composers, performers and musical traditions.

- Continuing to review and develop our music curriculum and ensuring that it reflects the diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences of the community we serve, enabling all pupils to see themselves represented within their musical learning.
- Increasing opportunities for pupils to engage with live music and wider musical experiences by working in partnership with Milton Keynes Music Hub and other external music organisations.
- Exploring additional performance opportunities for pupils across all year groups, both within school and in the wider community.
- Continuing to develop pupils' musical listening skills through our planned assembly listening programme, helping children to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of music from different cultures, genres and historical periods.
- Reviewing opportunities to expand participation in co-curricular music, including instrumental tuition, ensembles and singing opportunities, to ensure that as many pupils as possible can engage in musical learning beyond the classroom.