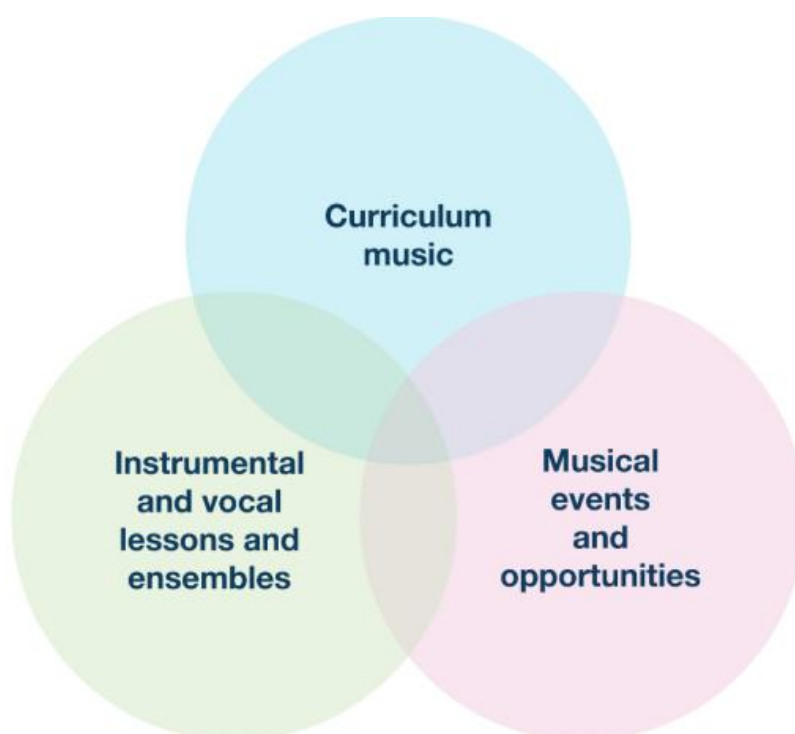


Whitley Lodge First School Music Development Plan



School	Whitley Lodge First School
Headteacher:	Mrs J. Palmer
Music Coordinator:	L Price
Member of Hub Staff:	S Teoh & F Gould & P Rees
Academic year this summary covers	2025-2026
Date of summary	October 2025
Date of review	October 2026



General Overview

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. At Whitley Lodge we aim to provide for every child the skills and understanding needed to ensure that they derive enjoyment and satisfaction from music, through active involvement in listening, composing and performing. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world that they live in. It enables children to feel part of their community. At Whitley Lodge we aim to provide for every child the skills and understanding needed to ensure that they derive pleasure and feelings of self-worth from music, through active involvement both in and out of school.

Curriculum Music

Whitley Lodge has a sound tradition in musical performance which involves singing, playing a variety of instruments, and responding to music through movement. *(Please also refer to the WLFS Music Policy, Curriculum overview and Singing Strategy)*. As well as teacher led learning, we aim to develop the skills needed for independent learning by giving opportunities for exploratory and creative work at individual and group level.

All children from Reception to Year 4 have a weekly music lesson taught by an experienced Higher Level Teaching Assistant. In Nursery, musical experiences are embedded into the daily timetable of creative activities. Children begin to build a repertoire of songs and dances, and can make music through singing, body sounds, classroom objects and musical instruments. The school scheme of work is a two-year rolling programme which reflects the needs of the split year group organisation of classes. This is based on units from the Charanga scheme, a recent update of which incorporates appropriate aspects of the model music curriculum.

Resources from Sing Up are widely used to support the school's Singing Strategy, and the Ten Pieces resources are accessed as part of the "listening and appraising" aspect of the curriculum. Children sing every day in

assembly, in their classrooms and weekly as part of their music lessons. Additional opportunities arise throughout the year in class assemblies, performances for parents, community and Music Hub events.

We recognise that in all classes, children have a wide range of musical ability, and so we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child, including those with additional needs. We achieve this in a variety of ways:

- setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty (not all children complete all tasks)
- grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group
- providing resources of different complexity, depending on the ability of the child
- using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children
- providing specialist support where individual children have particular gifts or talents.

Progress is assessed and recorded in an on-going, informal format, using SeeSaw to record class activities, performances, and responses to music.

Wider Opportunities

As part of “The Importance of Music” national plan for Music Education, all children in KS2 have the opportunity to learn how to play a tuned instrument. At present this is the recorder in cycle A of the school’s music scheme of work, and the glockenspiel in cycle B. Tuition is given as part of a weekly music session delivered by a music specialist from NTMEH.

Extra curricular music.

Children in years 2, 3 and 4 have the opportunity to learn the recorder. Those in year 3 and 4 may also have piano and/or violin lessons. These are taught by peripatetic teachers Sarah Teoh, Fiona Gould and Phoebe Rees respectively. Children who receive pupil premium funding have their lessons paid for by school. Special arrangements can be made for those children with SEND following discussions with parents regarding support needed.

Additionally, children in years 1, 2, 3 and 4 have the opportunity to become part of a band and learn the electric drums, bass guitar, electric guitar, keyboard or vocals. This is taught by Bradley Woodlands from Rocksteady Music School. Children in bands have the opportunity to perform three times a year to school and parents. Children in Year 3 and 4 may join the school choir, which takes place once a week after school, led by music specialists from NTMEH. There is no charge for this activity, which runs during the autumn and spring terms. In the summer term there is an opportunity for those children who can play an instrument to join an instrumental ensemble, which is also free of charge. Both these groups perform to school, parents and the local community on regular occasions. Many of our pupils now also access additional musical opportunities through the NTMEH.

Musical events.

All children have opportunities to perform to friends and family as part of class assemblies, and Christmas performances.

In addition, the school choir performs in public on a number of occasions throughout the year, at hub and community events such as the “Winter Sing” at Whitley Bay Playhouse, and the lighting of the Christmas tree at Whitley Lodge shops. Similarly, the instrumental ensemble performs for family and friends as part of an end of term celebration.

Children learning to play the violin and/or recorder in school regularly play together as an ensemble, performing to parents, friends and the wider community. We include all our musicians in an annual “in-house” charity concert, which is always extremely well supported and widely enjoyed.

Action Plan

<u>Key Action</u>	<u>Support Needed</u>	<u>Timescale</u>	<u>Member of Staff Responsible</u>
To provide further opportunities for children to experience live musical events.	Access to live streams at low / no cost – ideally sourced by the music hub.	Spring 2025	Initially L Price, then all class teachers.
To review and assess current music curriculum, amending and updating where necessary.	Music lead CPD course for music coordinator, music lead hub meetings, review of rolling curriculum and sourcing of alternative schemes.	June 2025	L Price
To embed Sonar as a manageable assessment tool.	Monitor and review Sonar statements against learning objectives. LP to support and train D Ball	June 2025	L Price/D Ball

	with initial Sonar assessments.		
To develop further opportunities for musical performances in school and the wider community.	Broadening current music curriculum offering to ensure a wider variety of musical opportunities. Sourcing appropriate events, staffing for supervision of children at events.	June 2025	L Price/class teachers
To build on professional development within music.	LP/ D Ball to attend CPD courses initially.	Spring 2025	L Price/D Ball
To diversify the songs taught and performed in weekly assemblies.	LP to deliver music assembly once a fortnight (Wednesday) teaching and rehearsing different songs using Sing Up resources.	Spring 2025	L Price