Music development plan summary: Hillbourne Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Cassandra Claxton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Natasha Guarguaglini (Curriculum Leader)
Name of local music hub	Soundstorm
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	iRock

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 Hillbourne Primary School, our music curriculum is designed to offer pupils a broad and rich range of musical experiences, fostering a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music. Children engage with music through singing, listening, performing with instruments, improvising, composing, notation and appraising, while also developing an understanding of musical history and a wide range of musical styles.
- Music forms an integral part of our coherently planned and carefully sequenced curriculum. We follow the Get Set 4 Music scheme, which ensures clear progression in musical knowledge, skills and vocabulary across all year groups. The curriculum is effectively adapted to meet the needs of all pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and those who are disadvantaged, enabling every child to access, enjoy and succeed in music.

- Music is taught by all staff and lessons are structured to revisit prior learning before introducing new knowledge. Previously taught skills and concepts are regularly retrieved to support pupils in transferring learning to their long-term memory. Clear modelling and appropriate scaffolding support the development of new musical concepts, which pupils then apply through individual and collaborative music-making opportunities. Pupils are given opportunities to deepen their understanding through discussion, reasoning and reflection. Key musical concepts are carefully threaded through the curriculum from EYFS to Year 6, supporting strong links across learning and ensuring progression.
- To further enrich pupils' musical experiences, a peripatetic music teacher works with Year 4 pupils, providing specialist tuition and opportunities to learn, practise and perform as part of a samba band, developing confidence, creativity and teamwork.
- We continue to work in partnership with our local music hub, SoundStorm – the Music Education Development Agency for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area. This partnership enhances our curriculum offer and supports our commitment to ensuring that every child who wishes to engage in music has access to high-quality, inclusive and inspiring musical opportunities.
- From the Early Years, children are encouraged to explore and experiment with musical instruments within continuous provision as well as through taught music sessions, establishing strong foundations in musical awareness, creativity and self-expression.

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.

- Weekly iRock sessions take place during the school day and are promoted to all families. Parents and carers can sign their children up, should they wish to take part. These sessions are funded by parents/carers, with free places available for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium, ensuring fair and equitable access to high-quality music tuition.
- We offer a free choir club, which meets weekly from the second half of the Autumn term. The choir provides pupils with regular opportunities to rehearse, perform and develop their vocal technique and confidence. Performance opportunities are planned across the year within the school and wider local community, enabling children to experience performing for an audience and to apply their musical learning in meaningful and purposeful contexts.
- To further enhance our music offer, we gathered pupil and family voice to explore interest in individual instrumental tuition in the previous year. As a result,

1:1 music lessons were introduced, including 1:1 drum lessons, and are continuing this year, allowing pupils to develop technical skills, musical fluency and confidence through specialist teaching.

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.

- All pupils participate in regular singing assemblies, with a minimum of three sessions each half term. During these assemblies, children learn and perform a wide range of songs drawn from different musical genres, supporting vocal development, musical confidence and enjoyment.
- Across the school year, all year groups learn and perform songs for key seasonal celebrations, including Harvest, Christmas and Easter assemblies. These performance opportunities allow pupils to apply their musical learning and develop confidence when performing to an audience.
- Pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1 take part in an annual Nativity performance during the Autumn term, which is shared with the rest of the school and parents/carers. This provides early opportunities for structured performance, collaboration and expressive use of voice.
- We also have a termly whole school poetry assembly. This also provides opportunities for structured performances, by all classes, with many choosing a song to perform with actions. Parents and carers can attend and watch these performances.
- Year 6 pupils plan and perform an end-of-year production for the school and their families, showcasing their musical, dramatic and performance skills and celebrating their learning at Hillbourne Primary School.
- Year 4 pupils perform their samba music to parents at the end of their specialist teaching block in the Spring term, demonstrating progression in rhythm, ensemble performance and musical confidence.
- The school choir is provided with opportunities to perform within the local community, enabling pupils to experience music as a shared and purposeful activity beyond the classroom.
- Pupils are provided with a whole-school opportunity to attend the theatre to watch a pantomime performance. This experience allows children to hear familiar, current songs adapted with revised lyrics to support the storyline, while observing high-quality live performance. Pupils can learn from watching performers sing with clear projection, expression and animation, further developing their understanding of effective vocal performance and stage presence.

- In partnership with SoundStorm, all pupils experience a *Live and Inspire* performance each year. This enables children to listen to and engage with live music as part of the curriculum, broadening their musical experiences and raising aspirations.
- Music from a wide range of cultures, traditions and historical time periods is woven throughout the school year. To support this, we introduce a weekly 'Music of the Week', listened to and discussed during assemblies. This encourages pupils to develop an appreciation of key artists, composers and genres, compare musical styles and understand how music reflects different times, cultures and lived experiences.
- During lunchtime, pupils are exposed to recorded music played outdoors, featuring a variety of styles and genres. This further immerses children in music and helps to normalise music as part of everyday school life. Within the classroom, music is played as they arrive into the class first thing in the morning and after lunch, to provide a calming and settling atmosphere.
- iRock enhances our musical offer by performing an inspirational concert to all pupils, promoting engagement and participation. In addition, pupils taking part in iRock showcase their progress by performing to the school and their parents at the end of each term, celebrating their achievements and musical development.

In the future

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

- To further enhance our 1:1 instrumental music provision, increasing access for a greater number of pupils, including those in receipt of Pupil Premium, ensuring equity and inclusion across the school.
- To broaden the range of instruments offered to pupils through both curriculum lessons and extra-curricular clubs, enabling children to explore a wider variety of musical pathways and interests.
- To ensure that every child has regular opportunities to perform to an audience throughout the school year, both within school and, where appropriate, in the wider community, building confidence, resilience and a sense of achievement.
- To strengthen our partnership with SoundStorm by arranging annual visits to Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra concerts at Poole Lighthouse, giving pupils the opportunity to experience high-quality live orchestral music and further develop their cultural capital.