Music development plan summary: Houghton on the Hill CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lindsey Calow
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire 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.

At Houghton on the Hill Primary School we aim to develop the children's skills in solo and group performance so they build a sense of community whilst performing. We will help them to develop skills in singing, playing, listening, composing and performing, using a range of stimuli and instruments. We will give them the opportunity to see and hear performance from around the world and encourage them to foster an emotional and spiritual response to the music they hear. We aim to help the children develop an understanding of the breadth of music from around the world and how it links to our cultural heritage. We want children to understand how music can be a response to historical, geographical or religious contexts and be used to promote growth mindset and wellbeing though opportunities to experiment, make choices, practice mindfulness and express difference and opinions. We hope by doing this we will help children at Houghton develop a deep love of listening to, composing and performing music as a way of expressing who they are.

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.

We use a Primary Scheme for Music called: The Leicestershire Primary Music Scheme. This scheme comes from the Leicestershire Music Hub who we have worked with for many year.

The new scheme covers 6 areas of music:
- Unit 1: Pulse
- Unit 2: Voice
- Unit 3: Rhythm
- Unit 4: Pitch
- Unit 5: Music tech
- Unit 6: 20th Century.

Each half term in curriculum music, we cover a different unit of work. We group units on pulse and rhythm together across to help consolidate the difference between pulse and rhythm and also how they are linked together. Unit 6 is covered across the whole year as a way to introduce the children to a ranges of genres gradually and so they have the opportunity to listen to lots of music within the genres they are investigating. Unit 2 is covered through our weekly singing assemblies as well as warm-ups to lessons in the other units taught across the year.

Each year group, from EYFS to Year 6, have a set of 6 lessons to follow within each unit which build on skills learnt in the previous year group. This allows us to see progression clearly across the school because every year group is learning each unit during the same half term.

Each year group from year 2 to year 5 will also be having 8 weeks of instrumental lessons at the start of the academic year to give them the opportunity to experience different types of tuned and rhythmic instruments as well as the chance to experience ensemble performance. These instruments will then be used in Music lessons to help aid with performance and composition.

Currently we are offering the following instruments:

Year 2: Recorders
Year 3: Chime Bars
Year 4: Ukelele
Year 5: Djembe

Schemes of work for these instruments are sourced from The Leicestershire Music Hub as well as Percussion Plus and the lessons are delivered by the class teacher who is supported by the Music Lead.

Music lessons can last between 30 to 45 minutes. In most classes Music is taught weekly although on some occasions it will be switch to fortnightly so that the children can have a longer lesson on composition and performance. The Leicestershire Primary Music scheme is informed by the model music curriculum, which although is non-statutory, allows us to break down further and expand upon the minimal information given in the National Curriculum. We have access to the Leicestershire Music Hub for support in our music lesson provision and the delivering of the music scheme.

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.

We offer 1:1 piano tuition from year 1 up to year 6. These are currently taught during one and a half days in the week and are provided by local piano teach Josephine Markham. These lessons are now in their 6th year, but newcomers are always welcome. They are normally involved in a performance in the Summer term to parents/carers and a different performance to the whole school as a way to encourage more children to take up lessons. There is a cost to these piano lessons and these are paid through Mrs Markham and they will communicate with parents directly.

This year we will be running choir at school, which meets during lunchtimes on Thursdays for a term. It's a chance to sing different songs and learn particular singing skills, including ensemble performance. We are continuing to look into providing opportunities for the choir to perform to parents and the other children in the school as part of our church services and festive celebrations as well as forming links with local community groups so the children can perform at the village hall.

We are hopefully going to be able to provide a Djembe drumming ensemble for children in year 5 and 6 later in the year once children have completed their 8 weeks of lessons in the Autumn term.

Within our LearnAt trust, we are planning to have a mass ensemble of choirs come together and sing and perform at some point this academic year. The music leads across the academy trust are keen to try and facilitate a massed choir singing event but careful thought need to go into how this can be achieved due to the distances between our schools.

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 the above musical opportunities, we have collective worship everyday. At some point during the Collective Worship assembly, we have a worship song that children and staff join in with. At the start of Collective worship, children have the opportunity to listen to and watch musical performances from different genres so they can see what the ensemble they are listening to looks like and what different instruments are being used.

On Wednesdays, our Collective worship is a singing assembly. This is when the whole school comes together to practice worship songs, looking at developing musical elements such as singing at pitch, following a conductor, ensemble performance and singing in different parts through these songs, as well as worshipping. These practice sessions, allow us to then perform worship songs at festivals or celebrations, such as Christmas, Harvest or Easter.

Every Class in our school puts on a family assembly each year where the parents are invited to come and see the children act, sing, dance and speak about what they have been learning. These assemblies often have a tie in to the children's history units and will included songs and rhymes which the children have practices to help them learn.

Our year 6 children also have the opportunity to rehearse and perform a production every year which involves singing and acting. This is performed over several performances to their parents and to the whole school.

Our Foundation stage children take part in a nativity performance at Christmas which they perform to the whole school and their parents.

The KS1 classes also perform, a nativity at Christmas which they perform in the local church to the whole school and their parents. They also perform this nativity to a primary school from the city who come to visit us at Christmas. We visit them during Diwali and at our visit we have the opportunity to take part in their Diwali assembly which involves singing and dancing.

As mentioned above, we have a yearly piano concert where the children get to perform to the rest of the school. This concert also involves audience participation with the children clapping rhythms for the children to perform to.

We also work with the local village hall to provide entertainment for their monthly soup lunch. We try to attend at least two of these a year where the instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform to an audience.

We also aim to give the children the opportunity to hear live music and will again invite members of the community to come into school and perform for the children. This past year we had visits from a parent and her band and also an ex-pupil who came to play the piano and saxophone for the children. Both performances were well received and

aspirational for the children to see and hear live music. The Year 6 children will hopefully have the opportunity to again attend the LEAP Orchestra concert in the Summer Term at DeMontfort Hall in Leicester which was a fantastic event which allowed them to hear a live orchestra on a concert stage performing a wide range of musical genres.

In the future

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

We are in our 7th year of using the Leicestershire music scheme. We have restructured how music is being taught using this scheme for this academic year and hopefully this restructure will help provide more consistency across KS2 music which will help promote better progress in music across the school starting with a strong grounding in foundation stage and KS1.

We hope running choir again will build a group of singers who can perhaps help lead our singing assemblies and begin to offer other opportunities to this group, including carol singing at the Christmas Tree festival and other musical performances outside of school such as taking part a singing event with the schools in our Academy Trust.

We're are consolidating providing a whole class musical instrument teaching block for all children in years 2-5 which got off to a good start this year. Children were excited to be learning instruments and many made good progress across the lessons. I will continue to monitor closely and evaluate the effectiveness of this these lessons and provide support for the new members of staff having to deliver these to their classes.

As music lead, I will continue to make sure all our musical instruments are in good working order and continue to promote the importance of keep our resources tidy to teacher can collect instruments quickly for composition and performance lessons.

As music lead, I will continue to support teachers in the delivery of the Leicestershire Primary Music scheme, and provide help, support and training available whenever possible if they are unconfident with the subject knowledge or musical skills needed to teach their relevant units of work.

I will also continue to build a strong working relationship with Leicestershire Music so we can look at achieving our Music Mark for this academic year and also continue to trial schemes of work for the services to help build their resources.

Further information (optional)

We are partnered with the Leicestershire music hub throughout academy network meetings. Their link can be found here: Leicestershire Music - Leicestershire Music