Music development plan summary:
Shenley Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	November 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Mizelas-Hall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Barone
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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 Shenley Primary School, our music curriculum is shaped by the statutory National Curriculum, the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), and the Kapow Primary Music Scheme. Together, these frameworks provide a rich, progressive and engaging music education that develops pupils' musical knowledge, skills and creativity.

We are proud of our inclusive, whole-school approach to music, where musical experiences are embedded throughout school life. Music is valued across the curriculum, and all staff are encouraged and supported to incorporate musical opportunities into their teaching. Our Music Leader has completed training in the Model Music Curriculum and works closely with colleagues to ensure high-quality music provision across the school.

The Kapow Primary Music Scheme forms the foundation of our classroom music lessons and is aligned with the Model Music Curriculum. These lessons are enhanced through additional musical experiences and opportunities that further enrich pupils' understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of music.

The Shenley Primary School Music Curriculum can be viewed here: https://www.shenleyprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Information+2026%2D2027&pid=540

As part of our commitment to developing practical musicianship, pupils in Years 3 and 5 participate in whole-class recorder lessons, enabling them to develop instrumental skills, musical confidence and performance experience.

In Year 3, pupils take part in whole-class recorder lessons that support the expectations of the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum. Through regular practical learning, pupils develop the fundamental skills required to perform with increasing confidence and musicality.
Pupils learn to play the recorder with a clear, controlled tone, using correct finger positioning and basic articulation techniques, such as tonguing notes using "doo" or "too" sounds. They are encouraged to develop good playing habits and an awareness of accurate pitch and tone production.
As their musical understanding grows, pupils progress from using graphic and rhythmic notation to reading simple musical notation on a stave. They begin by learning the notes B, A and G, building the foundations of music reading and performance.
Pupils also learn to play and interpret rhythms including minims, crotchets, paired quavers and crotchet rests. These skills are developed through engaging practical activities, repertoire and performance opportunities.
Alongside learning to read and perform music, pupils are encouraged to explore their creativity through musical improvisation. Using a limited range of notes, they create and perform simple two- and four-bar musical responses, developing their listening skills, confidence and ability to compose music independently.

In Year 5, pupils build on the skills developed earlier in their musical journey and work towards the expectations set out in the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum. Recorder lessons provide opportunities for pupils to develop greater technical control, musical understanding and expressive performance skills.
Pupils learn to read and perform music across a wider pitch range, typically spanning at least an octave. This includes notes such as Low C, D, E, F, G, A and B, as well as High C and D. As their confidence develops, pupils are introduced to simple accidentals, including F sharp and B flat, further extending their musical vocabulary.
A key focus of Year 5 music is ensemble performance. Pupils learn to maintain their own musical part while performing alongside others through activities such as playing melodies over a drone, performing two-part rounds, and working in "Recorder 1" and "Recorder 2" groups. These experiences develop listening skills, teamwork and musical independence.
Lessons introduce a wider range of rhythmic concepts, including dotted crotchets, syncopation and semiquavers, alongside music written in common time signatures such as 3/4 and 4/4. Pupils learn to recognise, read and accurately perform these rhythms within a variety of musical contexts.
Musical expression is also an important aspect of learning. Pupils are encouraged to use dynamics, including piano (quiet) and forte (loud), as well as different articulations such as legato (smooth and connected) and staccato (short and detached), to enhance the quality and character of their performances.
As their confidence grows, pupils apply their knowledge creatively through composition activities. They compose and perform their own melodies, typically between four and eight bars in length, using scales or pentatonic patterns they have learned on the recorder. These opportunities encourage creativity while reinforcing understanding of pitch, rhythm and musical structure.

At Shenley Primary School, singing plays a central role in our musical provision and provides pupils with regular opportunities to perform, develop confidence and share their achievements with others. Throughout the year, children participate in a range of performances that celebrate their musical learning and contribute to the wider life of the school.

Performance opportunities include the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 Christmas Concert, the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert, the Year 6 (with Year 5's support) Production and class assemblies. These events allow pupils to develop their singing skills, stage presence and confidence while performing for audiences of peers, families and the wider school community.

We also value opportunities for pupils to engage with music beyond the school setting. Shenley Primary School participates in music events organised by the local Hertfordshire Music Service, enabling children to perform alongside pupils from other schools and experience large-scale musical events. For example, pupils in Year 5 take part in the annual Primary Vocal Concert, where they rehearse and perform a varied repertoire as part of a massed choir. This experience helps to develop musical skills, teamwork, confidence and a lifelong appreciation of singing.

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.

At Shenley Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences and opportunities to develop their instrumental skills. As part of this commitment, some Year 5 pupils participate in a dedicated 11-week programme of trumpet lessons.

This opportunity is funded through the Pupil Premium Grant in partnership with Hertfordshire Music Service, helping to ensure that pupils can access specialist instrumental tuition regardless of their circumstances. Through these lessons, children develop technical playing skills, musical understanding, confidence and performance experience while learning from experienced music practitioners.

The programme provides a valuable opportunity for pupils to explore brass instruments, broaden their musical experiences and further develop their enthusiasm for music-making.

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 Shenley Primary School, we believe that music should be a rich and memorable part of every child's education. We aim to provide pupils with a wide range of musical experiences throughout the school year, both as active participants and as audience members, helping them to develop their appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of music.

Singing is a regular feature of school life. Children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 take part in a weekly singing assembly, where they learn and perform a broad repertoire of songs. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, singing forms an integral part of daily learning and helps to support communication, language development and musical awareness.

During the festive season, pupils have opportunities to perform for their families and the wider community. Children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 present a Christmas concert, showcasing a variety of songs and performances. Key Stage 2 pupils participate in a Carol Concert held at the local church, performing a selection of traditional and contemporary carols.

Throughout the year, each class delivers an assembly that provides opportunities for children to sing, play instruments and share their learning with audiences that include fellow pupils, staff and family members. These occasions help to develop confidence, communication skills and performance experience.

We are proud of our links with the local community. Each year, a class visits a local nursing home to perform a selection of carols, giving pupils the opportunity to use music to connect with and bring enjoyment to others.

To further enrich pupils' cultural experiences, the school arranges an annual pantomime performance for all children, enabling them to experience live theatre and musical performance.

Towards the end of the academic year, pupils in Years 5 and 6 take part in an end-of-year production. This provides valuable opportunities for singing, acting and performance, culminating in shows for both the school community and families. These productions allow pupils to demonstrate the skills, confidence and creativity they have developed throughout their time at primary school.

In the future

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

At Shenley Primary School, we recognise the important role that extra-curricular activities play in enriching pupils' musical experiences and fostering a lifelong enjoyment of music. We are committed to enhancing our wider music provision and providing opportunities for children to develop their interests beyond the classroom.

In recent years, we have sought to offer a range of extra-curricular music activities to complement our curriculum provision and performance opportunities. These initiatives have been designed to encourage pupils to further develop their musical skills, confidence and enthusiasm for music-making.

While participation in these opportunities has been limited, we remain committed to exploring ways to increase engagement and ensure that a wider range of pupils can benefit from additional musical experiences. We continue to review our provision and consider opportunities that reflect the interests and needs of our pupils and school community.

Through our ongoing development of the music curriculum and wider enrichment programme, we aim to build a vibrant musical culture where all children are encouraged to participate, perform and enjoy music both within and beyond the school day.

Further information (optional)

Please click this link to access information on the Hertfordshire Music Service: https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/hertfordshire-music-service.aspx

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.