

Music development plan summary: Greenfields Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Kate Day
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Joanne Evans
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Electric Umbrella Soundbox UK

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 Greenfields we understand the impact music can have on wellbeing as well as how important it is to understand the academics behind music. Every class has a set music lesson for between 45-60 minutes a week, as well as a set 30 minute singing assembly together. In Early Years, music is an integral part of the day and is used to provide breaks in learning, wellbeing as well as reinforce learning in stories and rhymes. We move to more formalised lessons in Key Stage 1, where children are taught about the musical disciplines needed to listen, compose and perform – understanding the technical aspects of music as they are exposed to different genre and cultures. In Key stage 2, children develop this even more to become more technically refined in their musical appreciation and choices. All children participate no matter age, ability or need, as music is a unifying and encompassing subject.

We have written our own bespoke curriculum for music at Greenfields, ensuring we give opportunities to appraise, create and perform. Each class performs at our annual Christmas show, during their class assemblies and at the end of year culture fest, where we celebrate different decades of musical appreciation or genres.

We work with Soundbox UK to offer personalised drumming, electric guitar and piano lessons for those who wish to take them up. Beginners piano is also offered to children through our St Helen's outreach programme for years 4-6. This year we are also working with inclusive company Electric Umbrella to develop our whole school offer. In Year 4 we work with the Hertfordshire Music Service to teach all children to play the ukulele and to read music, as well as offering all children in Year 2 the opportunity to play the recorder. Whole class instrument teaching is also offered in Year 5 with glockenspiels forming the main part of our curriculum. Our aim is that by the time children reach Year 6 they have a sound musical understanding and ability to read music, as well as play 3 different instruments confidently across three different musical groups: wind, string and percussion.

Through our weekly singing assembly, classes come together to sing and rehearse seasonally appropriate songs ready for different collective events each term, for example, Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Remembrance etc. Whole class ensemble teaching forms the basis of most schemes with call and response, listening and appraising and performance all forming the crux of the music curriculum.

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 Greenfields we are led by what our children request during their extra curricular time, as well as the expertise we have as a staff. This is why we work with Hertfordshire Music Service and with Soundbox to be able to offer peripatetic lessons. Parents are expected to pay for these opportunities, but support is available to families on reduced incomes and in receipt of the Pupil Premium.

Soundbox offers electric guitar, drumming and piano lessons.

Hertfordshire offers violin and string lessons

St Helen's offers electric piano and recorder groups

As a school we also offer a choir for children to join and just enjoy singing together. This choir occasionally performs at South Oxhey Old People's home when requested. This is open to children in Year 4-6. There is no charge to be a part of the choir.

We also participate in the annual South Oxhey Community Unity event which pulls children together from the 6 schools in South Oxhey and Carpenders Park. Here, all

children are part of one unites choir, singing songs we will have been practising together in schools. This beautiful event shows the children the unifying power of music and gives the children an opportunity to perform as well.

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.

We take pride in the opportunities we have to share our music at Greenfields, and always bring together the whole school for Christmas, singing songs as classes and as a whole school in a variety of languages, including the use of Makaton. In addition to the Christmas Show, there are class assemblies once a year for each class, the Musical Culture Fest, the South Oxhey Community Unity event and the Year 6 (which includes Y5 as the ensemble choir) production which all give performance opportunities for music.

Each year the whole school is taken to the Panto to see music and acting in real life (parents are asked for a small donation towards the cost), and we organise different people and groups to come into school, to perform to the children, such as The Purcell School of Music, St Helen's and Soundbox music professionals. Occasionally, Hertfordshire peri service come in to perform as well. All children watch and participate with great enthusiasm.

We have begun to seek workshops and external providers to deliver different sessions to our children, so we will continue to book in providers and celebrate events such as World Music Day with experiences for all children like African Drumming, Beatboxing and Chinese Dragons.

In the future

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

This year we are very excited to be working with Electric Umbrella, who will be delivering a bespoke curriculum to us all in the Spring Term based on Composition and Creativity. Their ensemble of 7 musicians with a range of needs and abilities will be supporting the whole school for one day a week throughout the term, delivering Baby Brollies to our EYFS classes, coming together with the whole school to deliver singing practise, and then working with each phase on a bespoke curriculum. They will also be providing CPD for staff to skill us all in delivering high quality and inclusive music

lessons. We look forward to learning with them in the Autumn Term the song Kindness isn't just for Christmas to perform to our community.

Looking forward, we will be developing our curriculum, ensuring music engages the imagination of all students, and looking to develop our extra curricular offer so that all instruments and families are covered in our Peripatetic offer. We will also be investigating technology and music and looking how we can utilise on line composing and electronic lessons more to engage our pupils and show them how technology and music are perfect partners.