

Music Development Plan Summary: Pepper Hill 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	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Henry Nelson-Lucas
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Milton Keynes Music Hub and Service
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.

Part A: Music Curriculum

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 Pepper Hill School we offer children from Nursery to Year 2 one hour of music education a week. Lessons take place in our well-resourced Music Area which has a wide range of instruments including a class set of glockenspiels, recorders and ocarinas.

In Year 1 and Year 2, the children have a different focus instrument that they use to cover the strands of the music curriculum including performing, song making, composing, improvising and listening.

In Early Years (Nursery and Reception) children learn nursery rhymes, number songs and well-known songs weekly and sing these in small groups, whole class and 1:1 basis with adults as part of Expressive Art and Design. The children have access to a range of instruments and sound makers throughout continuous provision to create their own music.

Singing is at the heart of our school, and the children enjoy whole school singing in assemblies including the weekly singing assembly.

Every half term, a child from each class is presented a 'Champion of the Arts' award, which recognises their achievements in the arts.

Pepper Hill offers a bespoke curriculum and takes inspiration from Charanga and Sing Up.

Planning, policy and progression documents are reviewed yearly.

Pepper Hill is an ArtsMark Gold School awarded for the academic year 2023/2024.

Our full curriculum can be found here: <https://www.pepperhillschool.co.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=142>

Part B: Choirs and ensembles

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.

Children in Years 1 and 2 are invited to join the school choir, *Singing Peppers*, which rehearses weekly. This club offers a wonderful opportunity for children across the school to come together to learn and perform a range of songs. *Singing Peppers* also collaborates with the *Stantoneity Choir* from our federation partner, Stanton School, giving pupils the chance to perform at joint federation events and a variety of community events and venues, including the GXO Fun Day, Christmas celebrations at GXO, and the St Barnabas Wives Group in Leighton Buzzard. All after-school clubs, including choir, are free of charge.

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.

Throughout the year, children have a number of opportunities to join in large-scale performances in school. Children sing regularly as a whole school in the weekly singing assemblies and in special/religious event celebrations such as Harvest and Christingle.

In addition, the choir performs for local companies and community groups, including events such as the GXO Family Fun Day, where they share their enthusiasm for music with the wider community. This year, The Singing Peppers will also be performing at the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival in partnership with St Barnabas Church, Linslade.

All the children learn songs for their year group Christmas production, which is performed to parents in school and children from Stanton School. EYFS children learn a nativity production with 6-8 songs and also perform to parents and children from Stanton School.

At the end of the year, Year 2 perform a musical theatre production to celebrate their time at the school. This is performed to parents, the rest of the school and children from Stanton School.

During our Mother Language Days in June, we had a visit from an African musician and storyteller and the children learn about a country (Singapore, Jamaica and Ghana). They listen to and discuss the music as well as having the opportunity to learn songs linked to that country.

We have termly Federation assemblies with Stanton School where the children from both schools all sing together as well as perform songs to each other. These assemblies will have a theme or occasion, 'Lowry Arts Week', 'Christingle' and 'Anti-bullying week'

The children have the opportunity to experience live concerts performed by professional musicians including a visit from the Toscana Strings, provided by Milton Keynes Music Service, who perform ballet to famous pieces of music/composers such as Swan Lake.

Key Stage one children visited The Stables, in a village outside Milton Keynes, one of the UK's leading live music venues to watch a special performance of 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies.

Whilst our Reception and Nursery children each year enjoy Ragdolly Annas' who deliver a high energy music and dance workshop. Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution of £3.00.

Music is present across the curriculum, using songs and rhymes to help learn and memorise facts, times tables and brain gym which uses actions to music. Every Friday afternoon during 'Physical Friday' the children can sing and dance to a variety of music linked to their current learning.

In the future

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

- Looking ahead to this academic year, we aim to offer a range of music/performing arts afterschool clubs including exploring different instruments and performing arts.
- To further create and strengthen links between the schools in the Federation to offer more opportunities for collaboration between our children.

Further information (optional)

Further information and resources can be found on the following websites:

Milton Keynes Music Service: <https://miltonkeynesmusicservice.com/>

Charanga Music Scheme: <https://charanga.com/site/musical-school/charangas-schemes/>