

Music development plan summary:

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	23/05/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	17/09/2024
Name of the school music lead	Carly Zuk
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Carly Zuk
Name of local music hub	Nottingham Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

Our school follows the 'Charanga' scheme which is rooted in the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021). Charanga provides our school with the foundation to deliver a creative and high quality programme of music. Our lessons include: singing, listening and appraising, composing and performance. We aim to cover a range of musical approaches and traditions within these lessons, as a diverse community it is important to us that our children feel represented. Six week units focus on a song, combining singing, playing, listening and appraising as well as some improvisation and composing. The Charanga programme aims to develop a child's creative voice and our children enhance and develop their skills as they move through the school and learn how to better express themselves through sound. Our units are chosen with all learners in mind, our teachers identify potential barriers and formulate ways in which all children can participate and achieve success.

Alongside this provision, we have sessions delivered by the Nottingham Music service in Year 4, which aims to teach our children how to play a string instrument, either cello, violin or viola. Children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to continue their strings provision in small groups delivered by the hub with the view to enhance their instrumental knowledge and progress onto achieving a grade 1 certificate in music.

Music is taught bi-weekly in years 1-3 and weekly in years 4-6 and is an important part of our curriculum. We have a weekly singing assembly that our whole school (including foundation stages) attend, these sessions create a sense of community within our school, songs are selectively chosen inspire and empower our students.

The music hub is an integral part of our music curriculum. We have cultivated a strong relationship over the past year and they have offered a multitude of enriching opportunities.

Part B: Co-curricular music

As mentioned above, children in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to continue their instrumental journey beyond Y4 with small group provision provided by the hub. This is outside of and as well as their usual 'Charanga' music lessons delivered by the class teacher. By the end of Year 6, we aim for these children to have achieved a grade of certificate in music. Children are allowed to take their instruments home to practise in their own time and learn the importance of rehearsal in order to improve and progress.

After school, we provide some music-oriented clubs. Area band is lead by Nottingham Music service weekly after school, children also rehearse once a half term with a partner school. This opportunity is subsidised by the hub so does not come at a cost to our children and anyone from Y4 upwards is allowed to attend. There is an expectation that once a child joins area band, they remain part of it until the end of their time at Sycamore Academy. Area band take part in termly performances at the Albert Hall in Nottingham and there has also been the opportunity to perform at the Nottingham University Campus. Between six to ten children are also taken to Music Camp, an over-night stay ran by the hub which teaches them the essential skills to take part in ensemble playing. These children are then expected to join area band. Further to area band, the hub has opportunities for ensembles and tuition outside of school and these are advertised to our parents.

For ensemble playing with the hub, the children have exclusive use of the hall, as is such for singing assembly and Choir. Area Band use one of the halls so they can access the screen needed for their sessions. These spaces are appropriate and always available.

Part C: Musical experiences

Our weekly singing assemblies are an important part, and often the highlight, of the school week. Children sing tunefully and enthusiastically to a backing track – the melody is taught by the music lead. We have at least one performance per term for children to be able to show off their singing and performing skills to their parents. Children who attend our after school music clubs perform their pieces to their parents at the end of each half term.

Our youngest pupils have the opportunities to perform in either The Christmas Nativity or our Easter performance. Our year six children also stage an end of year production for the other children and their parents to enjoy.

Through the Nottingham Music Service, we are able to attend several concerts throughout the school year to expose our children to high quality orchestral music. We also have a staff performance of a Christmas pantomime for the whole school. These experiences are subsidised for all.

In the future

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

Our provision is continually adapting and improving and we seek new ways to further the music education of our children. In the future we aim to:

- Engage with other L.E.A.D Academy schools to collaborate musically.
- Appoint music ambassadors and run an ambassador choir.
- Participate in the Young Voices Experience.
- Arrange non-western instrumental workshops.
- Develop dialogue with feeder schools to ensure continuation of skills development.
- Improve Area Band uptake.
- Establish communication with local secondary schools to facilitate live music experiences.
- Form partnership with another L.E.A.D Academy Music Lead

Further information (optional)

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.

The Nottingham Music Service progression framework can be found here:

<https://www.nottinghammusicclub.org.uk/resources/schools> as can the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) and the new National Music Plan 'The power of music to change lives' (September 2023)