

Music development plan summary: Highlees Primary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25/26
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Michelle Frith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Chris Venables
Name of music scheme followed	Charanga
Name of local music hub	Peterborough 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.

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.

Highlees Primary School uses the scheme 'Charanga' to support the delivery of the Music Curriculum. All year groups have weekly sessions lasting 45 minutes, apart from EYFS who have weekly 30 minute sessions.

How the Scheme is structured

Each Unit of Work comprises the of strands of musical learning which correspond with the national curriculum for music:

- Listening and Appraising
- Musical Activities

- Warm-up Games
- Optional Flexible Games
- Singing
- Playing instruments
- Improvisation
- Composition
- Performing

National Curriculum objectives are woven into each unit of study. Lessons focus on pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, structure, texture, notation – these are interwoven into the lessons and are built upon through each year group, adding on the dimension with each year progression.

All pupils have the chance to play a range of untuned percussion instruments. They have the opportunity to play these across all the terms. Each year group scheduled a weekly session to play the glockenspiels.

Singing Assembly and Celebrating Music

- Children from Year 1 to Year 6 attend a singing assembly every week. Songs are chosen from SingUp and linked to assembly themes.
- Children are exposed to examples of high quality music throughout the units of study during charanga as well as weekly assembly sessions. These include a variety of genres, cultures and historical periods - covering the six eras of musical history (Renaissance 1400-1600, Baroque 1600 – 1750, Classical 1750 – 1820, Romantic 1820 – 1900, Modern 1900 – 1960, Contemporary 1960 – present).

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.

Rocksteady

- Rocksteady Music School is a band-based peripatetic music service delivered by professional musicians. It's an inclusive programme that's accessible to all pupils. There are 5 pupil premium and funded options available for parents who cannot afford the fees. It supports wellbeing and in turn contributes to academic success. Children can play bass guitar, drums, keyboard or sing vocals. The large hall is dedicated to Rocksteady music lessons every Thursday. Children

choose their band names and perform to the rest of the school once every term. Progression is clear and focused. Parents are invited to come and watch. Parents and teachers also have access via the portal to see their child's progress and feedback.

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.

Musical performances and opportunities

- **Rocksteady Concerts - Termly**

Rocksteady bands perform termly to the rest of the school and their parents are invited in. This provides a safe opportunity to perform as well as advertise Rocksteady lessons to pupils. Children have soared in confidence after performing and are keen to work towards the next one.

- **Key stage productions**

EYFS and Year 1 children perform a Christmas production at the end of the autumn term. Year 6 perform a production at the end of the summer term.

- **Key Stage 2 Carol service - Annual**

Each year, key stage two children learn carols ready to perform to their peers and parents.

- **Theatre Visit- Annual**

Children have opportunities to see musical performances in and out of school. Each year a year group will visit the New Theatre to see a live orchestra.

In the future

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

- To create more opportunities for children to enjoy music, eg. Inviting groups in to perform to the children, or to carry out workshops.

- To provide more performance opportunities within our assemblies.
- To listen to pupil voice more regularly to ensure children are learning, progressing and enjoying their music lessons.
- To develop ways to record performances, monitor progress and to use these as a feedback and assessment tool.