

Music development plan summary: Tewin Cowper Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Katie Murphy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	n/a
Name of local music hub	Hertford Music Centre
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

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

Our music lessons are based around the planning provided by Kapow, which we also use for a number of other foundation subjects. Our lessons are part of a spiral curriculum, which means that musical concepts are regularly revisited and built on cumulatively year on year. This provides regular opportunities to practise and develop, helping to promote a secure understanding.

Music lessons are taught weekly for a minimum of the following length of time:

- Reception – 30 minutes (with opportunities for child-initiated musical activities throughout the week)
- Key Stage 1 – 45 minutes
- Key Stage 2 – 1 hour

Everyone takes part in music lessons, no matter what their level of musical understanding might be. We firmly believe that music has an incredible amount to offer *all* children – it has the potential to be therapeutic, thought-provoking, relaxing, invigorating, challenging, inclusive, and most of all, fun! We plan and tailor the lessons

to the needs of the children in each class, thinking about potential areas of difficulty, and barriers children might come up against. This ensures that each child can access the learning at their level of expertise and understanding, so they can get the most possible out of the experience.

This year, two of our classes took part in a project called “Finish This...”, run by the English National Opera (ENO). This immersive experience involved each class being tasked by the ENO to finish a piece of music that it had started but not completed. The children worked in groups to compose music to represent words within a word cloud “colour”, then represent this music on a graphic score so it could be played by other people. The project culminated in a performance of the class’s finished piece of music (which was a combination of everyone’s compositions), using voice, body percussion, and musical instruments.

Our Year 3 class’s composition impressed the ENO so much that it was one of a handful of recordings selected to be animated. The children’s final performances (and the animation) can be enjoyed via the following link: <https://www.eno.org/discover-opera/learning/finish-this/celebrating-finish-this-2023-24/>

Part B: Extra-curricular music

The current opportunities that children have to do music as extra curricular sessions are as follows:

- Piano lessons
- Singing for Fun club

Piano lessons are paid for by parents, but the Singing for Fun club is free of charge. We are looking to increase this offering next academic year, with more opportunities for learning a musical instrument both in class and out of class, including subsidised or free lessons where possible.

Sometimes we have musical performances from children in the school, people in the community, and visiting groups. The Singing for Fun club has performed externally to local community groups, as well as at events within school. We also work with other churches within our diocese, who sometimes come in to lead a music-based assembly and offer singing opportunities outside of school.

Part C: Musical experiences

Singing is a key part of our musical offering at Tewin Cowper. All children have the opportunity to sing during our daily assemblies, and singing techniques are explicitly taught in our weekly singing assembly. As well as this, children sing in class, not only as part of music lessons, but also at different times throughout the day. This might be

“just for fun”, or as part of learning in other curriculum areas to help learn and embed information (e.g. French vocabulary, times tables, etc.). There is a particular emphasis on singing, rhythm and rhyme in Reception and Key Stage 1, because these help to support listening skills and language acquisition, which underpin everything else we do in school.

Each class leads a church service at St Peter’s Church once a year, in which they perform at least one song that links with the topic of the service. All classes have the opportunity to attend and take part in services during the year. Families are invited to watch their child’s church service, too. Other singing and musical performances are spread throughout the school year, such as the Reception nativity, the Year 1 and 2 Christmas show, the Year 3 Maypole celebrations, the Year 5 and 6 performance, and various Singing for Fun performances at different points.

We love having visits and performances from inspirational musicians in the community or from further afield. For example, we had a very entertaining session led by a trumpet player who used to be part of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and then the London Symphony Orchestra. As well as performing for us, he spoke to the children about his “lucky break” into the world of music, and about the kinds of projects he has worked on throughout his life. Through experiences like this, we hope to instil high-reaching aspirations in our children, so that they are excited and motivated to pursue their interests and work hard towards their dreams.

In the future

We are looking to expand access to musical instrument lessons from next academic year, with some of these offered free of charge as part of music lessons, and some of them chargeable for individuals or small groups as extra-curricular opportunities.

We would also like to encourage more children to join our Singing for Fun club, with potential to take part in larger events such as Young Voices, which would culminate in a large-scale performance at the O2 in London.

In addition, we would love to get families more involved in what we offer our children, whether this means sharing their musical expertise, performing to classes, or simply enjoying and making more music at home with their children, with the aim of fostering a lifelong love of music.

Ultimately, our aim is to be guided by the excellent practice set out in the [Model Music Curriculum](#), which is non-statutory guidance published by the Government in 2021. We work closely with our local hub, part of the Hertfordshire Music Service, which can offer advice and training when it is needed.