

Music development plan summary: Whinmoor St Paul's Church of England Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer Term 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lindsay Lindley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	West Yorkshire Music Hub

This is a summary of how Whinmoor St Paul's 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 and how much time is spent teaching music.

At Whinmoor St Paul's we use the Sparkyard Scheme across school in our music lesson which are timetabled each week.

Our intention is to inspire each child to view themselves as a musician and develop a lifelong love of learning. At Whinmoor St Paul's we believe that Music is for everyone, helping to develop listening skills, creativity, fostering team work, resilience and confidence. During music lessons the scheme is used and adapted to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

We aim to provide experiences in music that give children opportunities to perform, compose and develop listening and appreciation skills. We aim to foster a love for a wide range of music styles and genres while the children develop confidence to perform to audiences of their peers, the whole school and the wider school community. We believe that music has the power to bring people together as a community and offer all children experiences to become a part of this.

Pupils with SEND are supported through adaptations, such as larger / smaller instruments, removing unnecessary keys, ear defenders to control the noise level etc. Teachers plan adaptations with knowledge of the children in the class so that all pupils can be included. Explicit instructions and scaffolding are used to enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

We currently follow the Sparkyard music curriculum which ensures that key musical concepts and themes are developed and revisited across the year groups, building on knowledge and understanding at every stage. This is further enhanced through the whole class instrumental teaching delivered in Year 4 by the West Yorkshire Music Hub and weekly singing worship. The whole school singing worship supports the singing curriculum through a combination of new songs and recapping previously taught ones. This allows the children to sing a wide range of songs as whole songs, rounds and in parts.

Music in Early Years

The children begin their music journey in Reception through Child Initiated activities and planned curriculum music, through Sparkyard. They explore singing, playing and composing. They have access to a range of musical instruments to explore both in and out of doors. The children learn Nursery Rhymes and short rhythms and patterns.

They also attend an EYFS Singing Worship where we learn songs using ArtForms Leeds Clap! Ding! Tap! Sing! Programme and instruments. Music is on the school timetable for 1 hour a week, which is a combination of music lessons and daily class singing and phase singing worship.

Music in Key Stage 1 and 2

Music in Key Stage 1 and 2 is timetabled for one hour. This includes a music lesson and a singing worship. As the curriculum progresses, the children have a wider access to a range of whole class instruments; these include chime bars, recorders, guitars, glockenspiels and untuned percussion. All lessons include some listening and performing which can be either singing, playing or conducting.

In Year 4, the children receive weekly whole class instrument instruction. The children have a year of 45 minute lessons taught by a specialist teacher. This also includes reading notation, chord structures and performance. These lessons are free of charge and there are no costs for the rental of instruments.

Over their course of study, the children learn more complex melodies and rhythms that are sung and played.

Part B: Extra-curricular music and enrichment

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 from Year 1 to year 6 have the opportunity to take part in guitar sessions outside of lesson time run by music specialists from Get into Guitar. Parents are sent information about these music lessons and can sign their child up for the small group sessions which include the use of the instruments. Each year these children perform a concert to the school with their parents invited to attend.

The school has a choir which is free to all KS2 pupils to attend on a weekly basis. The choir learns a range of songs and has opportunities to perform in school assemblies, Easter Service and in the local community for residents of local care homes and the Leeds Rhinos Christmas Carol Concert.

Children have the opportunity to join free music sessions where they have the opportunity to play in small groups in a range of instruments from chime bars, hand chimes, recorders and ukulele.

The school engages with West Yorkshire Music Hub and met with them to complete a school self-evaluation and development plan alongside the school. Opportunities through the service are promoted to the families at the school including opportunities to take part in local ensembles.

During the year there are opportunities to perform to the wider school community, as a class or as a whole school, in a range of celebrations and worships including, Remembrance Service, Harvest festival, Christingle, Nativities, Carol concert, Easter Service and the Year 6 leavers show.

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.

At Whinmoor St Paul's Primary School, we see performance as an integral part of musicianship. All children who learn to play an instrument in school or are part of the school choir, get the opportunity to play in front of the school. We have a range of pre-recorded music to listen to and live music outside of school.

Annually the specialist teachers perform to the children to engage them in the extra-curricular music session and see who may choose to take up the sessions.

Opportunities are used for musical experiences through a range of activities in other subjects to enable children to apply and use Music in real life and academic contexts e.g. History, PE.

Music is incorporated into a variety of activities and events within school, such as weekly worships, singing worships, classroom routines and special celebrations.

Year 5 take part in the Discovering Lieder concert week in which they have a one-hour session listening to specialist singers and write their own verse before attending a classical music concert.

A selection of 8 children from Year 5 are accessing weekly guitar lessons delivered through ArtForms to support them to further develop the skills they learnt during their whole class sessions in Year 4. This opportunity is provided for children who will otherwise not have wider access to music lessons and have shown an interest in improving their playing and performing.

As a school we continue to work with the Leeds Schools Choir and have enjoyed performing at the Leeds Youth Music Celebration Festival Concert and the Winter Voices concert. This year the choir will be performing at the Leeds Winter Voices concert alongside choirs from 12 other primary and secondary schools and a live band.

In the future

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

Music in the future at Whinmoor St Paul's

- Develop enjoyment and confidence in making music
- Sing regularly and accurately, developing performance skills and explore instruments and musical styles from different cultures
- Musical engagement with feeder secondary schools – look for opportunities to work with feeder secondary school for transition
- Increase the range of performance opportunities for our music groups and the school choir

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.

Please follow the link below to find details of the local Leeds Music Centres which run fun sessions, on Saturday mornings, from fun beginner groups to advanced ensembles, covering all styles and levels of experience.

<https://artformsleeds.co.uk/music/citywide-and-community-music-making/music-centres/>