

Music Development Plan Summary: John Ray Infants



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Nikki Mason
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lisa Christian
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Education Hub

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.

For Curriculum Music at John Ray Infants we use the programme Sing up, which is in line with the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum. This is a progressive scheme which starts with sessions in EYFS up to Year 2 in our school, and is taught weekly by class teachers and LSAs in PPA time. Session times are approximately 30 minutes. The scheme allows children to engage with a wide range of musical experiences and encourages the children to listen and respond to different styles of

music and artists. The Sing Up Music scheme of work ensures students sing, listen, play, perform, compose, improvise and evaluate. This is embedded in classroom activities as well as focussed singing assemblies – such as Harvest, Christmas and special festivals, various concerts and performances. Children are given the opportunity to discover, explore and develop technical skills through practical music lessons. They learn how to sing and play various un-tuned and tuned percussion instruments such as glockenspiels. This involves both whole class and small group activities. Children are taught to recognise the musical elements of duration, dynamics, pitch, tempo, timbre and texture. Children are taught to make music together, to understand musical notation, representing sounds graphically and symbolically, and to compose pieces. In EYFS, music is used daily to contribute to the development of language – rhyme and phonemic awareness. Our SEND children can access and engage with music through adapted classroom activities and sessions held in our sensory room. In these sessions, music is used as a tool for communication, emotional expression and social interaction.

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.

At John Ray Infants, we have a choir which is provided free of charge and is available to all children in KS1. The choir is led by Lisa Christian and runs after school weekly. It is inclusive, enjoyable and aimed to develop children's love of singing and performing. The choir learn a wide range of songs that help to develop pitch, rhythm and vocal expression. They have regular opportunities to perform to the school and at community events such as Carol Services and at Nursing Homes. The choir also join with other local schools to sing at festivals in the community.

Children have their own logins to Sing Up, enabling them to access vocal warm ups, songs learnt in school and resources at home. Songs are added regularly as they are learnt and parents are informed through newsletters. This works to increase children's confidence and enthusiasm.

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.

- Every Thursday, the whole school take part in a Singing Assembly. The children learn a wide range of songs and enjoy singing together. This has contributed to building a sense of community and a love of singing for children and staff.

- Celebration assemblies – each assembly begins with listening to music from a variety of genres and artists.
- During the school year, all children have the opportunity to take part in a show or production. At Christmas, EYFS children take part in a Nativity and KS1 children learn a wide range of songs to perform to parents. Year 2 children perform in a Leaver's assembly. All children in the school are able to watch dress rehearsals and families are invited to see the children's performances throughout the year.
- Children in Year 2 have the opportunity to go on a trip to the West End to watch The Lion King.
- Children in the choir sing alongside a live band at Braintree Singing Festival for local schools.
- John Ray's Got Talent – an opportunity for children to showcase their own talents and perform.

In the future

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

- To provide memorable experiences for children - increase opportunities to see live music (secondary schools, musician parents)
- Increase oracy in music lessons – class discussions on music, peer feedback, reinforce music vocabulary.
- Teachers and the music lead will enhance their monitoring of children's progress by increasing the use of Ipad recordings. These recordings can also serve as tools for reflections and self-evaluation.
- Create a 'Music Wall' in the EYFS outside area so that all children in our Reception classes can access opportunities for music making as part of their continuous provision.