Music development plan summary: Heather Avenue Infant School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Kerry Houston & Kathryn Barlow
Name of local music hub	Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Norfolk & Suffolk Music 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.

We aim to provide a range of high quality music provision supporting children to become confident and skilled musical learners. We believe the arts, including music, are fundamental in developing the whole child, in order for them to develop their self-esteem, growth and ambition. We believe in providing activities and experiences that will enable children to become life-long learners, giving children memorable, motivating and inspiring experiences, in order to develop a positive disposition towards music to raise aspirations.

At Heather Avenue Music is taught through specific weekly music lessons using the Charanga music scheme, with singing at the heart of our curriculum, as well as via cross-curricular links across school, based on religious and global celebrations. Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of music and to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Our Key Stage One children follow the new Model Music Curriculum Charanga Scheme which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). Pupils complete 30 minute specific Charanga lessons per week with their class teacher and then complete an additional 20 minutes Sing-a-long session with their class teachers. Sing along provides the children with a core bank of songs, covering key musical concepts and musical vocabulary for all children, linked to pitch, tempo, pulse and dynamics, as well as providing an opportunity to hear and play different musical instruments.

Our Reception children follow the original Charanga scheme with specific Charanga lessons weekly, and sing along sessions. Continuous provision plans also include musical activities and ideas to enhance provision, with a stage and instruments outdoors for children to explore their skills further, as part of the area of learning 'Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative and Expressive', as well as supporting children across the curriculum. We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Within our Charanga lessons children across all year groups have the opportunity to learn to sing songs and compose their own music using the glockenspiels through whole class ensemble teaching. We adopt a positive and inclusive approach to ensure all children are able to access our curriculum, for example each teacher uses the scheme and adapts it ensuring every child can access and enjoy music in our school. For further information regarding our scheme of work please see our Music curriculum map - https://www.wensumtrust.org.uk/heatheravenue/learning/our-curriculum

We have a partnership with the local Norfolk and Suffolk music hub and have access to sing up resources which support our sing along sessions, as well as other events we partake in. We are also a Music Mark school which offers further support through training and resources. Musical Keys also visits the school regularly to provide additional music sessions to groups of children.

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.

We aim to provide a range of experiences for the children to participate in, with access to a range of instruments across all year groups, to develop children's individual skills and qualities. This allows children to become actively involved in their learning and provides them with the skills and knowledge they need to take their learning further, developing a lifelong love of music.

Children are able to access a range of musical instruments within our curriculum, as well as further opportunities outside of our curriculum. Children explore the glockenspiels in their weekly Charanga music sessions and EYFS have access to

musical instruments within their continuous provision. All children access the weekly sing-a-long sessions which are run at first by class teachers and then by the music lead, further exploring musical instruments and songs.

We have a musical box which the children are able to explore during breaktimes and lunchtimes, further enhancing their provision and opportunities for music at school.

We offer weekly individual piano lessons across school which several pupils participate in. Our piano teacher offers piano lessons across other schools in the Wensum Trust allowing children to continue their skills further when they move onto the junior school.

Our Year 2's have previously taken part in the music festival and this year we plan for all our Key Stage One children to take part in this. The children also have the opportunity to sing in our various performances, such as Harvest Festival (see Part C below for more information).

We aim to continue to enhance the musical opportunities our school offers over the coming year, with support from our music hub.

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.

All children partake in a variety of performances throughout the year, these include Harvest Festival, EYFS Nativity, KS1 Christmas Carols, Carol services for our link Care Homes in the local area and end of term performances, such as the leavers assembly song. Year 2 children have previously taken part in the Norfolk music festival and trust festival and we plan to take all Key Stage One children to the music festival this year.

The children enjoy live music performances, such as theatre visits, with one planned for Chritsmas time. Our Year 2's annually visit a west end performance in London. We ensure opportunities provided are inclusive, for example by providing funding for pupil premium children if needed.

We aim to inspire children within the area of music and encourage personal progression through these activities. Last academic year we re-introduced Heather Avenue's Got Talent this year, to support children to showcase their skills across the arts, by performing to their peers, something that was a great success and we will continue with this year.

In the future

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

This year we aim to…

- Continue to increase pupil's musical vocabulary in both KS1 and EYFS. We will continue with our weekly Music lessons in classes using the Charanga music schemes as well as our weekly sing-a-long session to include specific teaching of the key music vocabulary being covered.
- Enhance the EYFS environment to further children's independent musical explorations by creating a specific permanent music area within our EYFS provision outdoors for the children to freely explore, including key vocabulary displayed.
- Create a Key Stage One choir within our school and take part in the Norfolk music festival.
- Continue to encourage the use of the musical playground box and develop further opportunities to use musical instruments, i.e. ocarinas.
- Continue to ensure live performances for all pupils within the school including links to cultural experiences - Link these performances with our international weeks or other important events within our school year, where possible to further our curriculum offer and cross curricular links.
- Continue with Heather Avenues Got Talent across the school to support children to showcase their skills across the arts.
- Continue to embed 'Wise about Words', across our school, encouraging cross-curricular music to enhance children's learning further.

Further information (optional)

CPD - we aim to continuously develop our learning within the subject area of music and recognise the importance of all teachers having a strong subject knowledge. Ongoing CPD opportunities are provided to all teachers, through staff meetings and also through Charanga itself.