

Music development plan summary: Woolston Infant School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Claire Willsher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Harriet Jenkins
Name of local music hub	Southampton Music Hub
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

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.

At Woolston Infant School music is delivered through high quality teaching and opportunities. From the beginning in the Early Years Foundation Stage, it is embedded as a constant thread throughout each school day. We acknowledge that musical experiences in the Early Years are an integral part of building foundations for future musical success and interest, as a result music is delivered through adult led teaching, as well as continuous provision opportunities. Music in Year R, at Woolston Infant School, is planned for in relation to Development Matters (2021), Expressive Arts and Design and covers each aspect of Musical Learning and Development;

- Hearing and listening
- Vocalising and singing
- Moving and dancing
- Exploring and playing.

Children in Key Stage 1 follow a curriculum that is well sequenced, designed to help children develop a life-long love of music and to foster their creativity and performing skills. Music is taught weekly, and opportunities for extra-curricular music are encouraged – such as learning a musical instrument (the ukulele) and singing in a choir.

Our music planning fulfils the statutory requirements set out in the National Curriculum (2014), which aims to ensure that all pupils will be able to:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

The ‘golden thread’ of singing runs through our curriculum, with singing a key component of music throughout the school. Nursery rhymes are selected for children to sing and remember in EYFS – with rhymes allocated each half term. Woolston Infant School celebrates the inclusion of all children. We recognise that music has the ability to develop connections with others and bring every child together through musical experiences. Children with SEND can access music lessons through careful adaptations and scaffolds.

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 Woolston Infant School we believe that music is a universal language which has the potential to inspire and foster creativity in all our pupils. As such, music is not limited to the curriculum. Outside of lesson time, the school offers ukulele lessons taught in small groups to children whose families have expressed interest to participate. The school provides space for practice and rehearsals, and weekly ukulele lessons are taught by an outside organisation. The ukulele musical ensemble performs to parents and children on a regular basis, where the rest of the school can attend as the audience. For children who are eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant, the school can support with the costs of these lessons. The aim is that this exposure to performance in front of an audience will ignite interest and curiosity into further musical experiences that may impact the children’s choices as they grow older.

At Woolston Infant School, we have a KS1 choir. All children in KS1 are given the chance to become a member of the choir, as it changes each term to ensure it is a fair opportunity for all. The children are involved in the planning of music for choir; they are encouraged to give ideas and pupil voice is visible through song selection. The choir regularly perform to the rest of the school in assembly. At Woolston Infant School we have also built a strong relationship with some of the local care homes, where the choir visit and perform, which is very much enjoyed.

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.

Singing assemblies are held weekly to develop children's voices, as well as bringing pupils together to experience the act of singing together as a collective. A musical calendar has been developed for the school in order to expose children to a wide range of artists and music genres. Each Christmas, a selection of pupils from Year 2 participate in a public concert at the Southampton Guildhall (with the consent of their parents). During this term, the Year 2 children create a choir, practising on a regular basis during the school day. This choir will perform in assembly to the rest of the school during the Autumn term.

All children at Woolston Infant School enjoy a live performance each year. An outside organisation visit to perform a pantomime for the children, allowing the children to become a live audience. Every child is given the opportunity to perform to an audience in the school's nativity and Christmas service, as well as year group performances which take place throughout the school year to parents and carers.

In the future

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

To improve music at Woolston Infant School, we believe it is important to strengthen pupil voice so that their needs and interests are reflected in our curriculum. This will ensure the teaching of music remains relevant to our pupils, promoting meaningful lessons that are engaging. This will begin during school council member discussions throughout the whole school.

We also recognise the significance of continuing professional development for staff to feel supported and to maintain high-quality teaching. This will ensure all staff are confident and inspired to deliver our music curriculum. As an area of development, we will be providing regular opportunities for staff CPD throughout the next academic year.