



Whiteknights

Growing Greatness

Music development plan summary: Whiteknights Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Grace Greenlaw
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Bridget Reynolds
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
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 Whiteknights Primary School, we provide our pupils with the knowledge and skills to develop a purposeful and lifelong understanding of music. Our aim is to provide a curriculum that is inspiring and engaging through which pupils learn to sing, listen, compose and perform while also gaining a wide knowledge of musical cultures.

The music curriculum at Whiteknights Primary School is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) and designed to link to the termly themes of each year group. The curriculum is inclusive for all pupils.

A [curriculum map](#) for the whole school is available on the school website alongside an [intent, impact and implement](#) statement. Each year group has a medium term plan that outlines the expected outcomes for each unit of study, learning objectives and a resource bank.



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In EYFS, pupils participate in music activities for 30 minutes per week. In KS1 and Lower KS2, pupils receive 90 minutes of music teaching every fortnight. In Upper KS2, pupils receive 45 minutes of music teaching every week. Years 1-6 also attend weekly singing assemblies for 30 minutes.

Music lessons are based on the key elements of the Model Music Curriculum: singing, listening, composing and performing. Throughout the year, we ensure that all pupils listen and respond to a wide variety of musical compositions created by a diverse range of musicians. A new 'composer of the week' is introduced bi-weekly and their compositions are listened to throughout the week. Pupils learn to sing and to use their voices with the complexity of songs increasing from call and response in EYFS to 2-part harmonies in UKS2. The children are taught the interrelated dimensions of music: pitch duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, structure and appropriate musical notations and through this understand both how music is created and how they can compose their own music. An emphasis is placed on the development of proficient reading of staff notation, as this is a skill that will support children as they transition into KS3.

All children are provided the opportunity to explore and play a variety of instruments including both tuned (e.g xylophone) and untuned percussion (claves, drums). From Year, 1 – 6 one instrument is taught per year:

- Year 1: tuned percussion (chimes, hand bells, boomwhackers)
- Year 2: recorder
- Year 3: glockenspiel
- Year 4: ukulele
- Year 5: recorder
- Year 6: keyboard

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.

Outside of lesson time, there are opportunities for children to play and sing. The main school hall has a piano and is used for singing assemblies and production rehearsals. Two groups rooms are dedicated to individual/group peripatetic music lessons in the afternoons and all classrooms are used to teach music lessons.

A choir, led by the music lead, runs for pupils in KS2. The rehearsals take place after school.

Individual music lessons are taught for piano and guitar. A piano teacher from [Music Guru](#) provides group and 1:1 lessons for pupils in Reception to Year 6 four days a week. Children attending these lessons are coached through exams at the request of their parents. Parents pay for these lessons. A room in Orchard Block is dedicated to these piano lessons. Greg Tores from [Rock and Pop Foundation](#) provides



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guitar lessons to children in KS2. Children participating in these lessons go on to take guitar exams with Trinity College London. The children participate in a concert at the end of the year, demonstrating what they have learnt to parents and the wider school.

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.

The children regularly sing during celebration and end of term assemblies. The KS2 choir take part in [WASMA](#) and The Mayor's Carol Concert at Christmas for which the children learn a wide range of songs including harmony parts. The choir also performs at schools events such as the Remembrance event and Summer Fayre. In 2024, the choir took part in Young Voices at the O2 arena. They performed alongside thousands of other children in an unforgettable experience.

At the end of the academic year, Rock and Pop Foundation organise a concert for the pupils who have learnt guitar to perform. The Rock and Pop foundation also provide an engaging and inspirational assembly to the whole school at least once a year where they play the guitar and drums as a way of demonstrating the instruments available for the children to learn.

At Christmas, Year 5 lead the carol concert for the school, which takes place in a local church. The Year 5 pupils choose the carols and Christmas songs that are sung and perform several of the carols as a year group.

Productions form a large part of the schools' musical calendar most year groups participating in a musical production every year. In EYFS, nursery and reception children sing Christmas songs as part of their nativity. Children in Year 2 perform and sing in a Christmas themed production while Year 1 form the 'choir'. In Year 4, pupils also take part in a stage production that includes singing. Year 3 accompany this production as the singing ensemble. In Year 6, all pupils take on a singing role in their end of year production. Every year, opportunities are created for pupils to display their individual musical talents by singing solos or playing the instrument they learn in 1:1 music lessons.

We are always searching for new ways to enhance our music curriculum through workshops and performances. Children in Reception take part in a Chinese Dragon Workshop as part of Chinese New Year celebrations where they listen and dance to traditional music. In Year 1, pupils enjoy singing in a workshop linked to their Knights and Castles topic. This year, Year 3 will participate in an African drumming workshop that will develop their rhythm and performance skills.



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In the future

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

At Whiteknights Primary School we are continually reviewing and improving our music curriculum and provision in accordance with the [Department for Education's National Plan for Music Education](#). This plan states that the key features of a high-quality school music education are:

- Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1-3.
- Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice.
- A school choir and/or vocal ensemble.
- A school ensemble/band/group.
- Space for rehearsals and individual practice.
- A termly school performance.
- Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year.

During this academic year we will:

- Continue to ensure that all teachers receive CPD in order to enable them to deliver a high quality music education.
- Review the cycle of composers shared as part of the 'composer of the week' to ensure that the range of composers and compositions are diverse and represent the school community.
- Continue to embed a culture of love and curiosity for music by promoting peripatetic music lessons and music-based clubs run by the school.
- Ensure relevant enrichment opportunities are built into the curriculum, which deepen pupils' understanding of music.

Next academic year/in future years we will:

- Continue to research and resource a variety of musical activities and workshops for the children to participate in and attending including live performances.
- Explore ways to use digital innovation in music lessons.
- Create a 'loan system' so pupils are able to practice their year group's chosen instrument at home.



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Further information (optional)

The local music hub for Whiteknights Primary School – [Berkshire Music Trust](#)

The Department for Education has published a [guide](#) for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music.

[Rock and Pop Foundation](#)

[Music Guru](#)