Music Development Plan
Chestnuts 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	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kayleigh Watson
Name of local music hub	MK 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

In Nursery, daily singing sessions are led by the class teacher and songs include a range of new and familiar nursery rhymes, action songs and songs that develop a sense of pulse and rhythm. In Nursery and Reception, children have access to a range of instruments and music making opportunities. In Reception, there is a weekly music session for 20 minutes which uses resources from the Charanga music scheme. The children in Early Years have a chance to perform songs they have learned for their parents and carers in a Christmas sing-along and at stay-and-play sessions.

In Years 1 to 6, our music curriculum is delivered using Charanga's original scheme, which is in line with the National Curriculum. The use of this scheme of music ensures that our music curriculum is sequential and progressive, building on pupils' prior knowledge and skills across the key stages. The lessons are 30 minutes long and are delivered by class teachers in Year 1 and 2 and a HLTA in Years 3 to 6. In addition to the weekly 30-minute class music lesson, the children also attend a weekly sing and sign assembly where they learn the lyrics and signs to a variety of songs. In line with the Charanga scheme, children are taught to sing, appraise a wide range of music and read,

play, compose and improvise music on glockenspiels and recorders, as well as some untuned percussion such as djembe drums. Last year, we introduced an exciting opportunity for the pupils in Year 4 to learn to play a ukulele in their music lessons in the summer term. This is a 12-week programme which has been adapted from the ukulele unit on Charanga.

The children have a chance to perform songs to parents and carers. Early Years perform in a Christmas sing-along. Years 1 and 2 perform a Christmas Nativity every year. Years 3 to 6 perform songs as part of their Christmas celebration with parents. Year 6 sing songs in their leavers' assembly. Years 1 to 6 perform a song in the Harvest Festival celebration and the whole school perform a song on the outdoor stage at our end of term "Chestival".

In addition to the weekly sign and sing assembly, the children have the opportunity to listen to a piece of music at the start of the weekly celebration assembly, which is then discussed. The choice of repertoire from a variety of cultures and traditions in our music lessons and assemblies offers a powerful way to promote diversity. The children listen to and learn about music and songs from a wide variety of artists and cultures which cover many of the protected characteristics. Creating a culture where all music is celebrated and respected, encourages learners to be confident in enjoying, embracing and sharing the music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 at Chestnuts have the opportunity to learn to play the guitar in small group peripatetic music lessons in school. The lessons are led by a music specialist.

For those children who love to sing, the children in Year 3 and upwards can join our school choir. This is led by our passionate HLTA and supported by the music lead. The choir take part in the Young Voices experience and we have visited the O2 in London for two years running. It is a fantastic experience of singing in a large, professional venue with other choirs to create a mass vocal ensemble. The choir also performs the Young Voices songs in school to parents and carers.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children in Years 1 to 6 take part in weekly singing and signing assemblies. Music is also incorporated into the weekly celebration assembly where, each week, the children will listen to a piece of music at the start of the assembly from a wide variety of genres and cultures which is then discussed. Music is also incorporated into our Harvest Festival assemblies, the Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity, Christmas celebrations from Years 3 to

6, the Year 6 leavers' performance and the whole school "Chestival" performance at the end of term.

Children from Years 1 to 6 enjoy watching performances from MK Rock School and a woodwind performance from the MK Music Hub.

Knowledge Organisers are provided for each unit, highlighting musical topics taught in class and reminding children of the key vocabulary.

In the future

- Continue to embed the ukulele 12-week lesson programme in Year 4 for the summer term.
- Adapt the planning for Year 5 for this academic year (2025-26) to include and incorporate playing the ukulele to the songs. This will then extend to Year 6 in the following academic year (2026-27).
- To introduce "Singing Playgrounds" programme.

Further information (optional)

www.charanga.com

https://www.singingschools.co.uk/ - Singing Playgrounds