

Music development plan summary: Harlow Fields

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Simone Carter
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Michelle Sparks
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Service: Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Harlow Fields School and College caters for pupils up to age 19 with Moderate, Severe, Profound and Complex Learning Difficulties. Our pupils do not follow the National Curriculum and instead follow a bespoke curriculum tailored to their needs which focuses on 5 key areas of development. At Harlow Fields School and College, we recognise that music is not just an art form; it is a vital component of our pupils' educational experience and personal development.

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 developments 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

At Harlow Fields our commitment to fostering a rich musical culture is rooted in our belief that music enhances creativity, emotional expression, and social connection, therefore music is embedded across all areas of our curriculum. We focus on providing inclusive music initiatives that promote accessibility for all.

Sound of intent is 'an inclusive framework of musical engagement' that sets out how we all engage with music from processing small sounds to participating in whole songs.

<https://soundsofintent.org/en/home/index>

This framework identifies 6 levels of musical engagement. Each level builds upon the next as typically pupils engage with music at different levels at any one time.

In addition to these 6 levels, the Sounds of Intent framework identifies different ways in which people engage with music, called 'domains': reactive, proactive and interactive. This guides us in evidencing appropriate levels of challenge for each individual and helps to ensure high ambition for all.

Lessons can include a wide range of musical experiences depending on the needs of our pupils. Some examples are as follows:

- Creating calm environments using music to support emotional regulation and wellbeing.
- Exploring a variety of musical instruments including access to ukulele lessons within the 'Play It' scheme hosted by Essex Music Hub.
- Encouraging movement and rhythm through a range of activities.
- Using music as part of a consistent routine and supporting pupils to transition from one aspect of learning to the next with increased independence.
- Listening to music from a wide range of genres, styles and cultures.
- Developing active listening skills through discussions, describing sounds, and identifying instruments.
- Using music to support communication and increased comprehension.
- Pupils creating their own music with appropriate levels of support.

Staff Training and Development: Recent Professional Development Training has been provided by the **Royal Ballet and Opera Company** and **Open Up Music**.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Open Orchestras is a ground-breaking programme that supports special schools to set up and run their own school orchestra. This is set up and supported by Open Up Music, a charity that gives children and young people the opportunity to learn an instrument, rehearse, play independently, and perform in front of others when they are ready. Young people are encouraged to be musicians in a group, making music independently and with others.

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.

At Harlow Fields we offer after school clubs, including Sing and Sign club and Sensory club, both of which enable pupils to engage with music outside of lesson time.

Weekly Assemblies: Music is explored and enjoyed alongside inclusive communication and engagement via the use of Makaton.

Celebrating achievements through termly Merit assemblies where performances are shared with parents and carers.

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.

At Harlow Fields, this includes:

- Harlow Brass Band Performances
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In the future

We are excited about the further development of Open Orchestra and will be looking forward to increased involvement and performances next academic year and beyond.

Staff training to support continuing effective delivery of Music-based learning experiences as part of the Cognition and Learning area of the Harlow Fields Curriculum.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how to get involved in music in and out of school, and where to go to for support beyond school.

Essex Music Service have produced a guide which gives parents valuable information about supporting their child's music education. <https://www.essexmusichub.org.uk/files/2023/08/Essex-Music-Service-Parents-Guide-to-Music-Lessons.pdf>

The Essex Music Hub's Inclusion Strategy can be viewed here: <https://www.essexmusichub.org.uk/files/2023/01/Essex-Music-Education-Hub-InclusionStrategy-.pdf>

Inclusion resources can be found here: <https://www.essexmusicservice.org.uk/site/schools/resources/inclusion/>