Music development plan summary:
Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	14.07.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	14.07.2027
Name of the trust music lead	Ana Sinfrosio
Name of person leading the subject in school (if different)	Lucy Hardy
Name of local music hub	Greater Essex Music Hub: Essex Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Charanga - Music scheme Rock steady music school

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.

NET Academies Trust Curriculum Music

At NET Academies Trust, we follow the Charanga Model Music Curriculum/ Charanga Original Scheme, which has been crafted to align with the scope and breadth of the Model Music Curriculum introduced in March 2021 by the DfE. This curriculum serves as non-statutory guidance for teaching music, providing a comprehensive framework for music education. Schools within the Trust that have music specialists are encouraged to adapt their curriculum to meet the unique needs and abilities of their students, allowing for flexibility and personalisation in music instruction.

Charanga New Model Music Curriculum

The Charanga New Model Music Curriculum, designed to align with the Model Music Curriculum introduced by the Department for Education (DfE) in March 2021, provides numerous benefits for children across NET schools. This alignment ensures a comprehensive, inclusive, and nationally standardised music education.

How It Works

The curriculum operates through an interactive digital platform, offering a variety of resources, including songs, activities, and lesson plans. This platform is accessible to both teachers and students, facilitating seamless integration into classroom settings or remote learning environments. The key focus on developing essential musical skills such as performing, composing, listening, and appraising provides children with progressive learning opportunities that build their musical capabilities over time. The wide range of musical genres and styles incorporated into the curriculum engages students and fosters a love of music through enjoyable and interactive lessons.

Organisation

The Charanga curriculum is organised with a detailed, year-by-year framework, ensuring a structured progression of skills and knowledge. Each year's lessons build on the previous year's learning, creating a solid foundation in musical education. Lessons are divided into modules and units, each focusing on specific musical elements such as rhythm, melody, harmony, and musical notation. This structured approach ensures that children develop a comprehensive understanding of music.

DfE's Model Music Curriculum

The Charanga curriculum mirrors the aims and objectives of the DfE's Model Music Curriculum, ensuring that students develop a deep understanding and appreciation of music. It offers a broad and balanced curriculum that includes singing, instrumental

performance, and listening activities, aligning with the DfE's emphasis on a well-rounded music education.

Furthermore, the provision of resources and adaptations to support students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) ensures that music education is accessible to all students, reflecting the DfE's goal of inclusivity. Additionally, Charanga includes professional development resources for teachers, supporting them in delivering high-quality music instruction in line with the DfE's standards.

By implementing the Charanga New Model Music Curriculum, NET schools provide students with a rich, engaging, and comprehensive music education. This curriculum ensures that every child, regardless of their abilities or background, can enjoy and benefit from a high-quality musical education, fostering a lifelong love and appreciation for music.

Collaboration with Greater Essex Music Hub

NET schools benefit significantly from collaborating closely with the Greater Essex Music Hub. This partnership provides additional resources, expertise, and opportunities for both teachers and students. The Music Hub offers professional development for teachers, ensuring they are well-equipped to deliver the Charanga curriculum effectively.

The Music Hub's support in providing specialised instrumental tuition and ensemble experiences further contributes to a comprehensive and diverse music education. This service ensures that students receive high-quality, tailored instruction that enhances their musical skills and broadens their educational experience.

Essex Music Service Opportunities

Essex Music Service offers a wide array of opportunities and resources for schools to enhance their music education programmes. Here are some key services and opportunities provided:

Whole-Class instrumental learning

The Play-It! programme offers free instrumental lessons for KS2 students, covering a range of instruments and culminating in performances. Schools without their own instruments can borrow from Essex Music Service. Schools can access specialist tutors for whole-class settings. These tutors can adapt lessons for all levels and provide instrumental and vocal training, ensuring inclusivity by using adapted instruments and assistive music technology for students with special needs.

In-School Ensembles and Choirs

Schools can establish ensembles and choirs with the help of specialist tutors. These groups can rehearse during curriculum time or as extra-curricular activities, promoting collaborative music-making among students.

Conclusion

By implementing the Charanga New Model Music Curriculum and collaborating with the Greater Essex Music Hub, NET schools ensure that every child has access to a high-quality musical education. The additional support from Essex Music Service, including whole-class instrumental learning and in-school ensembles and choirs, further enriches our students' musical experiences. This integrated approach fosters a lifelong love and appreciation for music among our students, regardless of their abilities or background.

Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery Curriculum Music

At Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery, we adhere to the Charanga Model Music Curriculum from Years 1-6. Reception will continue to follow the Original scheme alongside the EYFS Expressive arts and design outcomes. This transition ensures that our music education aligns with the non-statutory guidance provided by the DfE's Model Music Curriculum of March 2021. Our music curriculum is conducted for one hour each week, including music assemblies, offering consistent and structured musical instruction.

Waltham Holy Cross Primary Curriculum 2026-2027

Year	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
EYFS	Me!/Christmas Preparations (school dependent)	Everyone!	Big Bear Funk
Year 1	My Musical Heartbeat Christmas Preparations	Exploring Sounds Learning to Listen	Having Fun with Improvisation Let's perform together

Year 2	Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch Christmas Preparations	Inventing a musical story Recognising Different Sounds	Exploring improvisation Our Big Concert
Year 3	Writing Music down Christmas Preparations	Recorders More Musical Styles	Enjoying Improvisation Opening night
Year 4	Musical Structures Christmas Preparations	Glockenspiels Feelings through music	Expression and improvisation The show must go on
Year 5	Ukuleles Christmas Carols *Young Voices*	Composing and chords Enjoying musical styles *Young Voices*	Freedom to improvise Battle of the bands
Year 6	Music and Technology Christmas Carols *Young Voices*	Djembe drums Musical styles connect us *Young Voices*	Leavers Concert

Musical Opportunities

At Waltham Holy Cross. we believe that music plays a crucial role in the development of our pupils. Our commitment to musical education is reflected in the wide range of musical opportunities we provide across all year groups. By exposing students to various musical instruments and vocal training from an early age, we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation for music, enhance their creative skills, and support their academic growth.

Our music curriculum is designed so that each year group is introduced to a variety of musical instruments, allowing students to explore different sounds, rhythms, and melodies. This diverse approach not only nurtures their musical talents but also enhances their cognitive and social skills.

Below is a detailed summary of the musical opportunities provided at Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy:

Summary of musical opportunities at Waltham Holy Cross Primary per year group, focusing on the type of instrument for musical instruction

Year Group	**Vocal**	**Percussion**	**Tuned Percussion***	**Recorders**	**Ukulele**	Djembes
Y1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

Y2	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Y3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Y4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Y5	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Y6	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

*Tuned percussion encompasses instruments such as: glockenspiels, drums, shakers, cymbals

The school owns all the instruments used in music classes, and they are taught by class teachers. The exception to this is the ukuleles, which teaching is provided by the Essex Music Service. This service is accessible to us through our collaboration with the Greater Essex Music Hub.

Our partnership with the Greater Essex Music Hub and the Essex Music Service is vital in supporting and enhancing musical opportunities for our pupils. This collaboration allows us to provide a rich musical education and a variety of experiences for the students. Additionally, through the Essex Music Service, we can offer free instrumental hire for a half term, further enabling our students to explore and develop their musical skills without the barrier of instrument costs. This seamless integration of resources ensures that our students receive comprehensive musical training, contributing to their overall educational experience.

SEND Inclusion

For more information on how we support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), please refer to our school's accessibility plan, which outlines the specific measures and support provided by school staff to ensure an inclusive learning environment for all students.

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.

Net Academies Trust

At Net Academies Trust, pupils are afforded extensive opportunities to enhance their musical skills outside of regular school hours. Through the Essex Music Service, parents can apply so their students can access instrumental tuition and participate in ensemble activities, allowing them to explore and develop their musical talents in a structured environment.

Furthermore, parents can request Financial assistance from Essex Music Service, making music lessons, instrument hire, and participation in county-led ensembles more accessible. This support ensures that all interested pupils have the chance to pursue their musical interests, regardless of their financial background.

Essex Music Service provides significant financial support, including a 66% discount on lessons for students eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium. Additionally, Looked After Children and those with a social worker can access free music provision through the Essex Music Education Hub and Essex SEND.

During school holidays, Essex Music Services runs specialist holiday programmes, subsidised for SEND children and free for siblings. These programmes allow families and young people to participate together in music activities, fostering community engagement and continuous learning outside the regular school times.

For students looking for a paid, individualised musical instruction, parents should seek Rocksteady's 1:1 tuition service. This programme is designed to help children further their musical education within their school placement, providing tailored lessons that cater to the unique needs and goals of each student.

Additionally, for those pupils who wish to delve deeper into the world of music in a more social setting, we invite the parents to look into the Harlow Rock School. This club, which is free of charge, meets every Monday and Friday evening, providing a welcoming space for students to explore music together.

Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy

At Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy, students have access to all the musical services provided by the Net Academies Trust, including instrumental tuition, ensemble activities, and financial assistance through the Essex Music Service. Through Essex Music services we offer the children Piano and Guitar lessons. Working in collaboration with Rock Steady Music school we offer children in KS1 and KS2 a weekly session.

In addition to these offerings, the school provides a free weekly lunchtime choir club for children attending Young Voices. This service allows students to engage choral singing without any cost, fostering a love for music and community through regular practice and performance opportunities.

Children in Key Stage 1 take part in a fortnightly singing assembly developing their awareness of musical genres and styles as well as developing their listening and oracy skills.

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.

Musical Experiences at NET Academies Trust

All our schools across the NET Academies Trust organise and take part in a variety of events that bring our communities together and celebrate our students' talents and achievements. Among these events are the annual Christmas shows, which are eagerly anticipated by students, staff, and parents alike. These shows are a festive highlight that showcases the hard work and creativity of our students.

Another significant event is the Young Voices concert, where students join thousands of other children to perform in a large-scale choral concert. This experience not only enhances their musical abilities but also fosters a sense of unity and accomplishment.

Class productions are also a staple in our schools, including special leavers' productions for our Year 6 students. These productions give students from all year groups the opportunity to shine on stage, develop their performance skills, and create lasting memories.

Musical Experiences at Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy

At Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery, Children are provided with opportunities to perform in various events and activities that engage students, parents, and staff.

Among these events, our Christmas shows stand out as a highlight of the year. These shows are not only a display of talent but also an opportunity for students to build confidence and for families to share in their children's achievements.

Another one of the key events that demonstrate our commitment to developing music in our community is the Young Voices concert. This concert features performances by Year 5 and Year 6 students and provides a platform for them to showcase their vocal talents. Participating in such a large-scale event helps students develop their musical skills, confidence, and teamwork.

In addition to the Young Voices concert, we have various class productions, including a special leavers' production. Each year group has the opportunity to put on a production throughout the school year, ensuring that every student experience performing and the hard work that goes into a successful show.

The children take part in various celebrations at Waltham Abbey Church throughout the year. Children perform hymns and carols alongside the local church community.

Throughout the year children have opportunities to play different instruments and styles of music through Essex Play-it workshops including Samba and African drumming.

Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery Events Table

Event	Participants	Cost
Singing assembly	Year 1 and 2	Free
Productions	Each class	Free
Christmas Carolling for parents	Year 5 and 6	Free
Christmas show	Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2	Free
Events at Abbey church	Whole school	Free
Young Voices concert	Year 5 and Year 6	Paid
Graduation production	Nursery	Free
EYs Leavers assembly	Reception	Free
Leaver's production	Year 6	Free

This table outlines the diverse range of events at Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy and Nursery, showcasing our dedication to providing enriching experiences for our students.

In the future

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

NET Academies Trust Objectives

Short-term objectives:

- Having at least one termly school performance.
- Carry out a NET show, involving all schools.
- Improve the use of technology to support children with creating their own musical pieces.

Long-term objectives:

- Continue facilitating all schools to move onto new curriculum through Ks1 and Ks2 focused CPDs with Charanga.

Waltham Holy Cross Objectives:

Short-term objectives:

- Strengthen consistency in music provision across the school.
- Children in will be exposed to musical genres during assembly times and in class.
- Children to develop their oracy skills during Music lessons.

Long-term objectives:

- Broaden pupils' cultural capital through access to a range of live musical experiences and performances.

Further information (optional)

- Essex Music Service have produced a Parent's Guide to Music Provision which gives parents valuable information about supporting their child's music education.
- Essex Music Service Schools Brochure 2024-25
- Greater Essex Music Hub Local Plan for Music Education