

Music Development Plan Summary: Wheelock Primary School

This plan will be published from September 2026.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jo Grimson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	The Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for Life

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 Wheelock we use the Kapow Music scheme to teach music – this scheme fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014) and is a spiral and progressive curriculum. There are five strands which run throughout the scheme of work: listening and evaluating, creating sound, notation, improvising and composing and performing – singing and playing. The inter-related dimensions of music are integral to all of these strands in the scheme of work.

Each year group covers a unit of work (5 – 6 lessons) every half term. Our aim is to enable all children 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.

Children will learn to sing and use their voices, learn to use technology appropriately and understand and explore how music is created. Children will also have the opportunity to create and compose music on their own and with others.

We ensure children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and can use their musical skills and knowledge to involve themselves in music in a variety of different contexts.

Children in Key Stage 1 will have the opportunity to play untuned percussion instruments and some tuned percussion instruments (e.g. glockenspiels). In Key Stage 2, this progresses onto other tuned instruments (e.g. recorders, ukuleles), including some lessons being delivered by a peripatetic specialist teacher.

At Wheelock, we work closely with Music for Life who deliver a one-hour lesson of music per week to both Year 3 classes and offer an after-school club, to ensure that specialist music provision is available in school. They also offer 1:1 peripatetic lessons, on a range of instruments, that parents can buy into.

Teachers have high expectations of all children, including those with SEND or those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Children achieve well in music across the school.

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 Wheelock we have a weekly singing assembly for Years 1 – 6 (EYFS join from the summer term). The children all come together in the school hall to listen to music linked to the 'Composer of the Month' and sing songs.

We have a close partnership with Music for Life, who offer weekly peripatetic lesson on a variety of instruments. These sessions are paid for termly by parents/carers. A range of instruments can be offered if children show an interest in them, we can liaise with our local Music Hub to find a suitable tutor

There are opportunities for pupils to gain music qualifications and awards through our partnership with Music for Life and the peripatetic lessons they deliver.

We have a school choir who meet weekly for one hour and this is delivered by our school music lead. Children from Year 2 up can take part in this ensemble. The choir is offered the opportunity to perform at various events throughout the school year.

We have our school hall and some intervention spaces which are used as designated rehearsal spaces each week.

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 Wheelock, we have a weekly assembly dedicated to singing, providing all children with the opportunity to sing as part of a large ensemble. This takes place in our school hall with Years 1 to 6 involved & Reception joining from the summer term. Songs that are learnt link closely to our school values, themes or upcoming celebrations.

In addition to this, we also provide the children with many opportunities to perform in school throughout the year. These opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Harvest Festival
- Nativities (EYFS & KS1) & Christmas Carols (KS2)
- Class Assemblies

- Christmas and Summer Fayres
- Year 6 Leavers Assembly

The events above include children from all classes (4 years old – 11 years old). Participation will often include either singing or playing an instrument. Lots of these events are free for parents to attend.

In addition to these in-school performances, we also offer the children some opportunities to attend music events outside of school, perform outside of school and watch performances by musicians invited into school. This is an area we are continuing to build on. Previous examples of these opportunities include:

- Christmas Carols at Sandbach Christmas Markets (Year 2 and/or School Choir)
- Singing at a local Nursing Home (Key Stage 2)
- Visitors to school including Rock Kidz and local High School bands (Whole School)
- Assemblies delivered by a local Church group
- Trip to see a live theatre performance yearly (Whole School)
- World Music Day celebration (Whole School)

In the future

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

This is our second year using the Kapow Music Scheme and with new units available for KS2 this year, we are continuing to embed the scheme to ensure progression and consistent use of music vocabulary across the school.

We are working on ensuring staff check what pupils remember over time, to enable gaps in learning to be identified and addressed, and learning to be built up on each year. The Kapow scheme supports this, as every lesson begins with a 'recap and recall' section, which is intended to allow pupils retrieval practice of key knowledge relevant to the upcoming lesson. It also provides teachers with an opportunity to make informal judgements about whether pupils have retained prior learning and are ready to move on. The scheme also includes end of unit quizzes, to assess children's understanding and retention of key knowledge.

We continue to develop links with the music departments at our local High Schools and this year we would also like to develop music links with the primary and secondary schools in our academy trust – The Learning Partnership.

We are continuing to develop and raise the school's music ethos and profile by bringing more live music into school for both pupils and staff to enjoy, having music displays up in school, celebrating musical achievement of pupils.