

Ullesthorpe CofE Primary School - Music Development Plan 2025-26

Vision and Aims

'A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.' (Department of Education, National Curriculum.)

At Ullesthorpe Primary School we use the CUSP curriculum which aims to ensure that all pupils gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

CUSP MUSIC CURRICULUM

Each block includes the study of significant musicians and musical works, with the intention of exposing pupils to a wide range of music that will inspire them and connect them to the world around them.

Core areas of study include singing, listening and appraising, composing and improvising and instrumental performance. These are built cumulatively throughout the curriculum to ensure that all pupils develop their engagement with, and knowledge of, music over time. This includes a focus on learning to play a range of instruments confidently. CUSP Music aims to build a strong and rich musical culture in schools, in which pupils can thrive.

As with all CUSP subjects, CUSP Music has a strong emphasis on the language that pupils need to explore their own musicality. This is carefully and deliberately planned so that pupils revisit and embed this knowledge over time.

Using a variety of instruments as well as their own voices, we strive to promote creativity and curiosity with opportunities to make original compositions, encouraging the children to comment, evaluate and offer advice on their own work and that of their peers within a safe environment to do so. Developing a wide range of vocabulary so that they can be confident when discussing the subject. Pupils are encouraged to experiment, through improvisation and composition, to find different ways in which to be creative, express a feeling or as a form of communication as well as develop performance skills. We aim to provide children with the opportunity to confidently progress in their creativity and expression along with working with others.

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date of publication	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school Music Lead	Kate Fraser
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisations (if a partnership is in place)	CUSP Music

Part A: Curriculum Music

<p>How much lesson time is spent on music per week* in KS1?</p>	<p>45 mins</p>
<p>How much lesson time is spent per week* in KS2?</p>	<p>60 mins</p>
<p>What opportunities do pupils have to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time? (For example, through whole class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups).</p>	<p>CUSP Music is taught from Years 1 – 6. Each year group has 6 blocks of approximately 5 weeks teaching. This is planned across a 2 year rolling programme, due to our mixed age classes. Additional weeks in the academic year can be used for consolidation, revisiting or enrichment. The curriculum is designed to be delivered in 45 – 60 minute lessons*, depending on the age of pupils and stage of learning. Most year groups follow the one lesson a week model, although some do a double lesson on rotation with other subjects, for example, teachers may choose to deliver one CUSP Music lesson over two shorter blocks of time.</p> <p>Across the year, each year group will focus on developing singing, playing a range of untuned and tuned instruments and building their knowledge about music and its cultural impact. Pupils will build their knowledge and musical skills year on year, becoming more expert in playing and appraising a wide range of musical styles as well as developing an understanding of musical vocabulary.</p>
<p>How do partnerships with external organisations support curriculum music? (For example, your local music hub)</p>	<p>Our children in KS2 will have an opportunity to take part in Young Voices every other year. We have an external choir organisation called Into the Spotlight that pupils can join and perform in concerts at a local high school/in school.</p>
<p>What do pupils learn? (a brief summary of what pupils learn, what instruments all pupils learn through curriculum lessons and the opportunities pupils have to sing in curriculum time - include link to the school's published music curriculum long term overview).</p>	<p>During KS1, CUSP Music aims to secure strong musical foundations for pupils. This includes a strong focus on learning musical vocabulary and significant opportunities to master rhythm and pulse. As pupils move into KS2, they will begin to learn the glockenspiel, alongside exploring a range of other tuned and untuned instruments. The aim is that by the end of Year 4, pupils will have secured a good level of technical and creative skill in playing the glockenspiel and this lays the foundations for pupils to go on to learn the keyboard throughout Years 5 and 6. For each year group, blocks provide the opportunity for pupils to prepare and perform musical compositions. In KS1, this is woven into several blocks to build pupils' confidence and experience base. Throughout KS2, pupils begin to perform in different musical ensembles, culminating in them performing their own compositions and improvisations by the end of Year 6. Pupils will be taught to read music from the earliest stages with the expectation of this gradually developing as pupils' experience base builds. Music from a wide range of cultures, time periods and traditions are studied across the curriculum, with plenty of opportunities for pupils to revisit significant musicians and compositions</p>

	<p>within and across years. This is important to help pupils embed learning and make connections between what they already know and their new learning.</p>
<p>How are disabled pupils or those with special educational needs (SEND) supported to access the music curriculum? (link to school's published SEND info)</p>	<p>As part of the planning and preparation for the delivery of each block, teachers adjusted the pedagogy and activity to ensure that pupils with SEND are able to access the materials and participate fully in the lesson. Additional visual prompts may be given to help them understand what is expected of them. Some pupils may require individual task boards to enable them to follow a series of steps where a task has been broken down into smaller, more manageable chunks. Assistance with adapting planning is available to teachers from the subject leader when planning music sessions, especially for our pupils with SEND. Where appropriate, pupils are given pre-teaching e.g. to have the opportunity to experiment with new instruments before a classroom activity.</p>

Part B: Extra Curricular Music

<p>Summarise the musical tuition that is offered to pupils outside of what is taught in curriculum music, including one to one, small group and large group tuition for instruments and voice.</p>	<p>The school offers choir as an extra-curricular activity for Junior children in Y4-Y6 attending the Young Voices concert.</p> <p>We have an external choir organisation called Into the Spotlight that pupils can join and perform in concerts at a local high school/in school.</p>
<p>How does the school ensure that pupils experiencing disadvantage are prioritised for access to music tuition?</p>	<p>For pupils experiencing disadvantage, the school has offered support to cover the costs of Young Voices and Into the Spotlight choir lessons so that they are not excluded from the opportunity for tuition.</p>
<p>How does the school work with families to encourage pupils to engage with music tuition?</p>	<p>We hold regular concerts and performances which promote learning a musical instrument.</p> <p>We invite peripatetic music teachers in to hold assemblies where the children and parents can be exposed to learning about an instrument.</p> <p>The school will liaise with parents to offer support financially if families are experiencing disadvantage.</p> <p>Participation in music and performance activities is monitored for all demographics.</p>

Part C: Musical Experiences

Musical Experience / Event	Charging information
<p>Our children are given many opportunities to perform their music throughout their school lives. In music lessons, children are encouraged to perform in small groups and also as part of a musical ensemble and these performances are to the rest of their class or to the wider school community.</p> <p>Digital performance - In KS2 the children are encouraged to digitally perform their pieces through the use of their iPads and screen sharing when they have made a composition.</p> <p>Performance assemblies - instrument players (we have a school piano which is available) and Into the Spotlight singers perform to the rest of the school and parents at least 2 times a year to model what they have been learning that term.</p> <p>Songs of Praise and communal singing is embedded as part of our daily worship and fortnightly celebration assembly; we have a designated singing worship weekly as well. We use a variety of songs linked to our Christian values and the children’s interests and preferences and also make use of singup.org.</p> <p>CUSP Festival of Spoken Word - pupils will have the opportunities to engage with songwriters, performers and lyricists.</p> <p>End of KS2 performance every summer - all UKS2 pupils perform in this, with our Year 6 leavers taking the main leads. Previous productions have included: <i>School Daze</i> and <i>I’m an Eleven Year Old. Get me out of Here!</i></p> <p>Collective Worship uses a timetable whereby different year groups take the lead in different assembly performances. e.g KS1 Nativity; Y3/4 Harvest; Y5/6 Remembrance; Year 6 Leavers’ Service - this involves much singing and occasional instrumental performing.</p>	<p>All of these activities are free and fully accessible, apart from performance assemblies as pupils currently have to pay to learn an instrument or take part in the Into the Spotlight choir.</p>

In the Future

Aspect of Provision	Intended Outcomes	Key Actions	By When?
Part A Curriculum Provision			
Singing	All children given the opportunity to perform in a group environment (on a larger scale)	Young Voices Choir Performance in music lessons to peers Into the Spotlight Choir Assembly KS1 Nativity Performance	End of Autumn term 2025
Playing	Provide access for children to a wider range of instruments	Strengthen links with local secondary schools to invite students in to perform to pupils Apply for fundraising/grants to increase the amount and quality of instruments to support their class such as keyboards and glockenspiels Enquire into possible involvement with Leicestershire Music Service	The dates of these will be subject to availability etc. Spring/Summer 2026
Composing	Ensure children receive high quality music education using CUSP Music curriculum	CUSP training to deliver curriculum effectively with high expectations for all children to achieve	Ongoing throughout the year
Listening	Wider range of experiences of listening to live music	A wide variety of music provided during the school day e.g. worship/class transitions	Spring/Summer 2026

Part B - Extra curricular provision			
Extra Curricular	Promote the “fun” aspect of music – available to all	YV Choir Singing or Instrument club	Autumn Term Spring Term
Part C - Musical Experiences			
Musical experiences	Introducing the children to a larger range of musical experiences External performance opportunities	Inviting more musicians into school. Young Voices CUSP Music Festival	Dates subject to availability

*"The curriculum is designed to be delivered in 45 – 60-minute lessons, depending on the age of pupils and stage of learning. Schools can choose how to organise this time within their timetable, for example, teachers may choose to deliver one CUSP Music lesson over two shorter blocks of time."

Each year group is expected to deliver the equivalent of 5 weeks of music teaching per half term: this equivalent amount of time needs to have been covered by the end of the year (some year groups may deliver a music day/afternoon to cover a few lessons).