Music development plan summary:
Springmead Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	1.9.2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1.9.2027
Name of the school music lead	Niamh Jackson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Karen Cayford
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical performances – 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.

Curriculum Music

This is about what we teach in lesson time and how much time is spent teaching music.

At Springmead, we believe music is a vital part of every child's primary education. Learning music directly develops core musical skills like pitch, rhythm, singing, and instrument playing, while exposure to varied genres introduces children to diverse cultures and creative ideas. Beyond these direct skills, studying music naturally builds essential life skills. It sharpens listening and concentration, teaches to recognise non-verbal cues, boosts memory and supports language and reading development. Making music together builds self-confidence, teamwork, and patience as children learn to listen to and support one another.

By exploring everything from classical pieces to modern world rhythms, our pupils grow in self-expression and emotional understanding. Music is far more than an enjoyable activity; it gives our children fundamental tools that strengthen their learning across the entire curriculum and helps them grow into confident, well-rounded individuals.

Within our school, Springmead incorporates both the model music curriculum (March 2021) and Hertfordshire Music Service's scheme (Charanga) to create a music curriculum covering lessons from EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Currently, each year group dedicates at least 30-40 minutes of whole class music lessons per week and are structured around four key areas of teaching with slight variation for EYFS:

1. Listening and responding (EYFS) or listening and appraising (KS1/KS2) 2. Exploring and creating (EYFS) or improvising and composing (KS1/KS2) 3. Performing through singing
4. Performing through playing instruments

Each year the group focuses on one genre of music every half term, covering a range of musical genres and styles throughout the year. Our four key areas of teaching are embedded across the half term beginning with listening and responding/ appraising. Children will then be given the opportunity to explore the song and the genre of the music, forming their own opinions and going onto experiment with their voices and different instruments. At this stage, creativity and collaboration is encouraged as children go onto composing and performing their own music in relation to that topic for the half term. This could be individually or collaboratively, however performing independently is encouraged by us as this allows for challenge and showmanship of bravery. At the end of each half term, our goal is for children to have created and composed their own music with hopes that they discover their own passions and interests within the subject.

Across all year groups, children can explore and experiment with a variety of tuned and un-tuned instruments ranging from percussion, brass and woodwind as well as their individual voices. Children are taught how to play instruments such as recorders and glockenspiels which is underpinned by the Herts Music Service's scheme 'Charanga'. These are taught as a whole class so that children can go on to use them independently in future lessons. Teachers also utilise technology to teach music which makes a range of instruments more accessible and supports children with SEND, who may find instrumental noise in a class environment over-stimulating.

All are pupils are exposed to a wider range of genres of music through a carefully structured annual progression from early music styles from the 1500s through to modern day.

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.

Springmead offers focused private music lessons outside of lesson time which are available to children from years 1-6 covering:

- Piano
- Guitar

We work closely with Piano Fun Club as they provide a specialist music teacher. These are mainly one-to-one sessions, which allow valuable, focused teaching time for individual pupils.

In addition, this year we will offer a choir club every week for children in KS2 where children will have opportunities to learn new songs each week and a chance to take part in performances outside of the school at the local church and care homes, as well as performances within the local community as well as Young Voices at Wembley Arena.

Prices:

For private lessons, parents pay directly to the companies we use to provide our music teachers. Lesson prices can be found through contacting these companies directly.

For piano lessons, please contact the school for information regarding our piano teacher.

For children, who are eligible for Pupil Premium, we follow a 50% clubs payment agreement where the school will cover 50% of the payment needed for a private music lesson. For guitar, some sessions are free of charge.

The choir club we offer is free of charge for parents and carers, however if your child is partaking in Young Voices, a payment will be required as it will be classed as a 'school trip'.

If you are looking towards providing an instrument for your child and do not want to purchase one, Hertfordshire Music Service offer an instrument hire scheme. This is supported by Hertfordshire County Council and partially funded by the Department for Education through Arts Council England. To hire an instrument using this service, you can refer to this link: Instrument Hire.

Musical Performances

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in collective worship, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Each week, children in KS1 and KS2 attend a signing assembly as part of our collective worship timetable and learn a range of songs. We try to focus on events occurring during that time of year such as the Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter.

Leading up to Christmas, the children take part in a range of performances across all year groups. Children in reception (EYFS) rehearse and perform a Nativity which parents, carers and family members are invited to come and watch.

We work closely with local music organisations to arrange workshops with each year group such as African drumming, djembe and steel drums.

Children in KS1 and KS2 take part in a whole-school house competition where they learn a variety of Christmas carols so each house can display their own carol concert. Parents, carers and family members are also invited to watch. To celebrate the achievement of learning the carols, the children are then given the opportunity to perform in a whole school carol concert as a part of our collective worship.

In the summer term, we plan and perform four school productions for each year group across 3, 4, 5 and 6. They include singing, alongside performing on a stage. We also encourage children to display their own instrumental skills by incorporating these within the productions. Parents, carers and family members are invited to all performances. We also stage ‘Springmead’s Got Talent’ which features many musical acts or those that involve moving or performing in other ways to mucis.

In addition, as stated above, children who attend the school choir club will be offered an opportunity to perform at the Young Voices event at Wembley Arena as well as smaller events hosted at our local care homes and church.

In the future

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

Following advice from the national plan for music education, our goals for this year focus on ensuring each year group covers at least a total of one hour of music lessons each week. As well as this, we hope to provide more music-related workshops given by external companies which we can incorporate in cross-curricular teaching.

To allow this to be possible, we will work closely with our local music hub (Hertfordshire Music Service) to gather advice and links to potential music workshops. To increase the time given to music lessons within our week, we will work towards incorporating singing, performing and the playing of instruments across all our subjects where appropriate. We believe music can be embedded within our lessons to promote and secure new learning, for example: learning songs about our topics in science, geography and history or using our voices and bodies as instruments throughout the day in our daily routines, especially in EYFS and KS1. We are also working to include music in our collective worship sessions, where we will focus on a different song belonging to a specific genre each week, find out the history of the song as well as listening and appraising each song. We also hope to see more children involve themselves in the private music lessons we provide.

Further information

Useful links and guidance:

The Department for Education publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Link to our local music hub: Hertfordshire Music Service