



Music development plan summary: Wymondley JMI School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Ally Chadwick
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Not Applicable
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

Curriculum music

Wymondley JMI's music curriculum can be found on our school website within the school's [curriculum](#) page.

We believe that music is an incredibly powerful form of communication that can shape the way we feel, think and act. Quality music teaching helps the body and the mind work together. Exposing children to music during early development helps them to learn the sounds and meanings of words. Dancing to music helps children build motor skills while allowing them to practise self-expression. We believe that every child should have the opportunity to discover their musical potential and we aim to nurture and encourage musical development across the school.

Our curriculum is rooted in the core development of musical skills, musical appreciation and enjoyment of all aspects of music for all, through the context of class learning whenever possible.

To support the teaching of musical skills, the school uses the Sing Up Music scheme of learning for the majority of Music lesson teaching and as our curriculum spine. This scheme sets out the skills, knowledge and understanding to be gained by all pupils in small steps from Reception to Year 6.

All pupils from Years 1-6 have a timetabled 40-50 minute music lesson each week. In addition, they enjoy a 20 minute whole school singing assembly each week where the 'golden thread' musical skills of singing are developed and pupils enjoy learning to sing in unison, canon and harmony from a wide repertoire. To support quality singing, the school subscribes to the 'Sing Up' suite of singing tools.

All pupils in Year 3 learn to play the violin as part of the school's core curriculum, reflecting Wymondley's commitment to ensuring all children have access to learning an instrument. This is taught by Mrs Ali Brown from the Hertfordshire Music Service. In addition to this, pupils follow on instrumental learning in Year 4 learning the recorder to ensure that all pupils can read musical notation by the end of lower Key Stage 2.

Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

All enrichment opportunities that we offer, like choir, ukulele club, Rock Steady and instrumental lessons, come from a solid foundation of class music teaching. It is popular and far reaching as a result, with 20% of our school community being choir members. First Access is well utilised with fully subsidised violin lessons for all year 3 children and subsidised opportunities to continue in Year 4, 5 and 6. Music at Wymondley plays a key part in building everyone's positive mental health with the active teaching of the emotion and feeling in each piece. Whole school music performances and celebrations, such as Proms in the Playground, give children further opportunity to develop their skill set and appreciation.

Outside of lesson times, pupils have access to individual, paired or small group lessons in brass, string or piano via peripatetic visiting teachers from the school's partnership with the Hertfordshire Music Service. Fully funded tuition is available for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility) through the Hertfordshire Music Service. The school subsidises violin group lessons in Years 4-6 to support pupils to continue to play. Pupils use these lessons to work towards examinations for ABRSM grades.

The school has string and brass instruments to loan for free to pupils who are taking lessons. The school also has keyboards available to loan for free to pupils learning the piano or keyboard through the Music Service or Rocksteady. Ask at the school office if you would like to enquire about the loan of an instrument.

Rock Steady lessons are offered at Wymondley; pupils learn to play rock band instruments in a group, gaining skills which are recognised through the Rock Steady grading system. Rock Steady and the school fund a limited number of funded bursary places for children whose parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).

The school Choir (Years 2-6), Boomwhacker Club (Years R-6) and Ukulele Club (Years 1-6) are free of charge to attend for pupils from Years 1-6 and give children the opportunity to extend their musical learning and perform regularly to a wider range of audiences.

The school maintains a close link with Hitchin Band, who are a local brass band who use the school as a rehearsal venue for their community band. The Hitchin Youth Band regularly perform for pupils and encourage uptake of instruments through this community route; they offer brass tuition to new starters for £1 per week with instrument hire included.

Musical experiences

Wymondley believes in the importance of performance, both to give value to music learning and to provide experiences that our children would not otherwise have access to. We therefore take part in a wide range of music projects (such as the Hertfordshire Music Gala at the Royal Albert Hall, performing at St Mary's Church in Hitchin and performing on Songs of Praise), as well as producing ambitious, high quality school productions over the school year.

In the 2024-25 Academic Year, the school is hoping to offer the following opportunities for children to participate in or watch musical performances.

EYFS and KS1 Musical Nativity - December 2024

This will be an opportunity for all children from Reception-Year 2 to perform in a musical play for the whole school and their families. There is no cost to participate or attend.

Rock Steady End of Term Concerts - December 2024, March 2025 and July 2025

Rock Steady pupils learn songs to perform in their lessons, with each term culminating in a performance to the school and parents. There is no cost to participate or attend.

Key Stage 2 Carols by Candlelight - December 2024

All pupils in Years 3-6 learn seasonal carols for a special evening performance for families. There is no cost to participate or attend.

Hertfordshire Royal Albert Hall Gala - March 2025

The school is applying to once again participate in the Hertfordshire Gala. Details of participation and voluntary contributions toward travel costs will be sent to parents once our application has been accepted and more information has been shared with the school.

Proms in the Playground - Summer 2025

This is an opportunity for all the school to watch a live band performance, and for the choir, ukulele group and any other musical groups (such as the Blue Peter Club) to perform for the whole school and parent community outdoors.

Upper Key Stage 2 Summer Musical Performance - Summer 2025

This year, the Eagles Class will perform a musical show to the school and their parents.

Sharing Assembly

Parents are invited to the school hall each Friday at 2:45pm to see what pupils have been learning that week. This will often include musical performances, and individual musicians are warmly invited to play as pupils and parents enter the hall.

In the future

The school is considering making changes to the curriculum used to deliver music lessons at Wymondley, including a review of the newly implemented 'Sing Up' scheme linked to the Model Music Curriculum and enrichment with the 'BBC 10 Pieces' materials linked to cross-curricular topics. This review will be undertaken in 2024-5 and a change to the curriculum may arise following this.

We hope to increase the quantity of tuned percussion instruments so pupils have access to 1 per child. We also hope to give access to learning brass instruments if funding is available to bring the instruments into school to enable the music leader to deliver this as an enrichment.

The school will invite the Letchworth Ukulele Group back to the school in 2025-26 to perform live for its pupils.

We would like to celebrate 'World Music Day' with a special workshop celebrating a world music style.

Further information

Peripatetic Lessons through the Hertfordshire Music Service

Pupils can learn an instrument at Wymondley from a specialist instrumentalist teacher who visits them at school during school hours. Lessons for strings, brass and piano are available and can be booked via the [Hertfordshire Music Service website](#). Lessons are mostly individual, but paired or small group lessons are possible if there is sufficient interest from other pupils to make a pair or small group - we would advise discussing this with other parents if you are interested in forming a pair or small group. Help with fees for music lessons is available for eligible pupils from the Music Service. For more information and to apply for help with fees, please see [HERE](#).

Rocksteady Lessons

Rocksteady lessons, led by band leader Julio, have proven very popular this academic year and will be continuing in September. If your child would like to join the band, information can be found on the [Rock Steady website](#).

Clubs

School-run clubs are great opportunities for children to learn an instrument or to develop their musical skills at low to no cost to parents. If you would like your child to take part in the ukulele group, they need a [soprano ukulele](#). As ever, cost should not be a barrier to learning an instrument so parents should contact the school if they would like the school to arrange a ukulele to be provided.

Learning a Brass Instrument with Hitchin Youth Brass Band

Hitchin Youth Brass Band welcomes new brass players of all ages and experiences (including total beginners). Hitchin Youth Brass Band is a not-for-profit club charging £1 a week for an hour of ensemble/tuition. They also have a selection of brass instruments to loan to children when they join.

Where: Oughton Primary School

When: Monday 6.30pm-7.30pm (term time only)

Contact: email us at youthband@hitchinband.co.uk

Learning other instruments, instrument hire, ensembles and workshops

Our local [music hub](#) is the Hertfordshire Music Service, who offer children lots of opportunities to join ensembles, learn a wide range of instruments and participate in special musical workshops and clubs. Please see their website [HERE](#) for all they offer in our area.

Learning music beyond the school

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.