Music development plan summary: Robin Hood Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	28th November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Gemma Pitman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Sutton Music Trust
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 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.

General approach:

- Music is taught weekly, following the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021).
- Lessons are about 45 minutes long and are taught either by class teachers or a music specialist (currently Whole Class Ensemble Tuition for Year 4).
- Lessons are taught using Charanga (a digital music teaching platform).
- Weekly singing assemblies take place for one year group at time, to further develop the children's vocal skills and support them with live performances.

Year Group Curricula:

- Our school curriculum for music is published via our termly year group newsletters, which give an overview of the content covered: https://www.robinhood-junior.org.uk/curriculum-newsletters-1/

As part of the curriculum, our pupils develop their skill in playing the following instruments:

- Year 3 spend a term learning to play the recorder as a whole class, taught by their class teachers using Charanga.
- Year 4 have Whole Class Ensemble Tuition for recorders throughout the academic year, in partnership with Sutton Music Trust. These lessons conclude with two live performances: one performance to parents and another at the KS2 Music Festival for 30 pupils at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon.
- Year 5 have weekly singing assemblies led by our vocal coach in partnership with Sutton Music Trust. These last for 40 minutes. The children also learn to play the glockenspiel for one term of their music lessons, taught by their class teachers using Charanga.
- Year 6 spend a term continuing to play the glockenspiel as a whole class, taught by their class teachers using Charanga.

As a school, we recognise the important role our music provision plays in ensuring inclusivity and equal opportunities for all pupils. Our lessons are tailored to meet the needs of all, with teaching assistant support available. Pupils are allowed to work in different groupings based on their needs. Performance opportunities are provided for all pupils, regardless of their ability level. Wherever possible, we avoid removing pupils with SEND for interventions during music lessons.

Part B: Extra-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.

We work closely with Sutton Music Trust (SMT) to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to make progress in their music outside of lesson time, through additional instrumental lessons. These include:

Choir

- Our Year 3 and 4 choir is available during Thursday lunchtimes.
- Our Year 4 and 5 choir is available as an after-school club, also on a Thursday.
- These sessions happen on-site in our school studio and are free to parents as they are included in our vocal package with SMT.

Piano, violin and vocal lessons

Individual and small group piano lessons are available through SMT. These happen on-site in our dedicated Music Room.

Guitar lessons (Rock n Pop)

Guitar lessons are available through a company called Rock ‘n’ Pop. We advertise the sessions for them and provide the venue.

Funding for Music Lessons:

- While individual and small group lessons are funded by parents, there are financial provisions for students who are eligible for Pupil Premium:

- Part-funded lessons are available for Pupil Premium students.

- Sutton Music Trust also offers a reduced rate for lessons, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent children from accessing music tuition.

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.

Robin Hood Juniors offers a wide variety of performance opportunities for pupils, ensuring that every child can experience and participate in high-quality musical events across the year.

Assemblies

- Our choir and soloists perform at the beginning of various assemblies throughout the year, offering our pupils to demonstrate their musical achievements in front of their peers and/or the entire school community

Concerts and Shows in School

- All children in Years 4, 5 and 6 participate in a musical performance throughout the school year: Year 5 stage the Christmas show; Year 4 a show at the end of the Spring Term; Year 6 a musical at the end of the Summer Term
- All children in Year 4 perform a recorder concert to their family members in the Summer Term

Concerts and Shows outside of School

- The Years 3/4 Choir sing at the St Nicholas Shopping Centre every Christmas
- The Years 3/4 Choir participate in the Big Sing, rehearsing and performing alongside other local schools
- Year 4 perform their recorders as part of the Music Festival at Fairfield Halls

Children going to see live music being performed:

The experiences offered to the children from year-to-year. Over this past year:

- Year 4 watched instrument ensemble performances by the pupils of Sutton High School
- Year 5 went to the Charles Cryer Theatre to see a performance by the Philharmonia Orchestra
- The Rock ‘n’ Pop tutor staged an electric guitar assembly to the entire school.

In the future

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

The key goals for continuing to develop our provision of music education across the school are as follows:

Developing staff confidence teaching the music curriculum

- Training is provided for all new teachers of music to ensure they feel fully equipped to use the platform to its full potential.
- Regular CPD opportunities are built in for all staff to improve the quality and consistency of music teaching and to ensure that music remains a high priority in a busy curriculum.

Access to lessons across a range of instruments

- The majority of our teaching employs tuned instruments. As a school we recognise that drumming can be highly engaging as well as teaching valuable skills linked to rhythm. Drumming is also a way of exposing the children to a diverse range of music from around the world leading to a greater appreciation of different cultures and traditions. This year we plan to explore how drums and other percussion instruments can be better incorporated into our music curriculum.

Develop performance opportunities

- Building on the existing range of performance opportunities, the school plans to expand the scope of musical performances across the year. Year 3 would benefit from staging a musical performance with singing; Years 5 and 6 would benefit from an instrumental performance.
- The school also hopes to create more cross-school and community performances.

Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

- The school aims to increase exposure to live music performances through workshops with professional musicians and concerts both in-school and at

external venues. We aim to build up a planned series of performances that can be re-visited year on year as well as continuing to look for one-off opportunities.

A school ensemble, band or group

- Many of our pupils participate in music lessons outside of the school day and have already achieved a good standard. An orchestra club would be an opportunity for them to play as part of an ensemble This is a longer-term aim as it is dependent on having a member of staff team with the musical skills required to coordinate it.