

Music development plan summary:
Hillcross Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	02.09.2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jane Buckett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Catherine Reidy
Name of local music hub	Merton Music Foundation (MMF)
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.

<p>1 Children at Hillcross participate in a wealth of music-making activities within their lessons. Enquiry questions such as ‘How can I change the tempo and rhythm to represent a train?’ enable our children to listen and identify musical structures using key vocabulary before manipulating, controlling and organising these within their own compositions.</p>
<p>2 As children progress throughout the school, they will develop more complex compositions developing their knowledge of staff notation by the end of KS2.</p>
<p>3 Children will perform with increasing accuracy, fluency and expression as they progress through our music curriculum, developing their self-confidence, creativity and a sense of achievement, cultivating a love of music and their talent as musicians.</p>
<p>The music curriculum is ambitious, follows the national curriculum and draws on insights from the model music curriculum. Curriculum sequencing is clear and links to Year Group topics so that subject knowledge can be applied in a meaningful context.</p>

Children in Year 1 and Reception have been selected to be part of ‘Mini Musicians’ which is an innovative pilot programme led by the London Borough of Merton in partnership with the Merton Music Foundation, Sing Up and Roehampton University. The programme is running from January 2024 to July 2025 in ten Merton Primary schools, reaching over 600 children, enabling them all to learn a musical instrument, and culminating in ‘Sing Out Your Story’, a KS1 Music Festival in Summer 2025

The curriculum progression grid for Year 1 – 6 is available to view on our website. We are currently in the process of adding our Early Years progression to this document as well. <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=984&type=pdf>.

In addition to this, we publish termly Knowledge Organisers for each year group which offer children and parents a more detailed overview of the skills and vocabulary linked to the overarching topic for that time period. Please click this link for an example: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1021&type=pdf>

In collaboration with our PTA and with advice from MMF, we set up a designated Music Room in 2021 with an extensive range of high quality musical instruments that support the implementation of the curriculum. This is utilised by all year groups.

	Am. Slot 1 (1 hr)	Am. Slot 2 (1 hr)	Lunchtime	PM slot 1 (1 hr)	PM Slot 2 (1 hr)
MON	Year 2	Year 6		Year 5	Year 5
TUES	Year 2	Nursery		Year 3	Year 3
WED		Year 6		Year 4	Year 4
THUR	MMF	MMF		MMF lessons	MMF lessons
FRIDAY	Year 1	Year 1		Reception	Reception

We ensure that children in all year groups are exposed to a wide range of varied high quality, age appropriate genres of music through the curriculum and this is supported by the Musician of the Month focus.

Our SEND pupils are able to participate and progress well within this subject supported with some adapted resources and strategies to allow inclusivity for all.

Good progress is demonstrated by secure and incremental learning of the technical, constructive, and expressive aspects of music, developing musical understanding.

All pupils, including SEND and PP are given the opportunity to perform regularly. During singing collective worship, to religious celebrations, all children are encouraged to participate. There are also Year group performances with a focus on the topic of learning for that term.

Staff have CDP training to develop confidence when delivering music lessons. Staff have the opportunity to access resources from MMF to support teaching and independent CPD.

The impact of our music curriculum (and broader music offer) can be seen in the Music Subject Story on our school website: <https://www.hillcross.merton.sch.uk/our-learning/curriculum/music/music>.

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.

The school facilitates one to one tuition through MMF and also small groups through a company called Rocksteady.

MMF offers individual tuition for many different instruments and they are currently teaching children at Hillcross to play the violin, guitar and piano.

Rocksteady offers children the chance to be part of a 'rock band' and experience playing different instruments and performing vocals, all building up to an exciting end of term performance. Places for disadvantaged children are offered so that children in this group who have enthusiasm and/or flair for music can access these sessions, enabling and encouraging their musical learning as part of and beyond the curriculum.

Our school choir is very popular and the children perform at a range of events including the 'Turning on of the Christmas Lights' when the event is in Morden Town Centre, singing carols at a local Community Centre, performing some solo songs at the school carol services, and getting involved in national large scale events such as The Young Voices Choir at the O2.

School performances offer children the opportunity to sing and/or play instruments including Nursery and Reception Nativities, Year 2 Performance and Year 6 Performance.

Local opportunities are signposted via the weekly Hillcross Bulletin.

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.

Singing is an integral part of our Collective Worship/Assemblies. We have a range of whole school songs, some of which have been reworded by the children to personalise them to our school. We also have an annual Whole School Topic song that the whole school community performs together at The Grand Finale of the whole school topic in the summer.

The Annual Hillcross Has Got Talent competition is an opportunity for children with musical talent to showcase their skills and talents. Children perform in year group auditions and some progress through to the semi-finals and finals.

The school makes the most of a wide range of opportunities from MMF, working as an active partner where possible. In the academic year 23/24 we have attended musical experiences such as Blues and Roots concerts and Jazz experiences.

We have also worked closely with our music hub (MMF) recently collaborating with local composers, our Year Five children took part in the 'Change is Coming' concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

As mentioned earlier, we have an annual Project Choir in place for Young Voices at the O2, allowing children the opportunity to perform in off-site arenas, and meaningful partnerships with the community are in place and regular annual events are attended by the whole school and individual choir eg. Carol service at the local church, Choir attend local care home to sing to residents.

Parents and carers support music making through support at events and home learning.

In the future

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

We are seeking to continue to address socially disadvantaged pupils **by ensuring they have access to a range of** (addressing gaps in knowledge, skills and) experiences including access to instrumental tuition, concerts and live events.

For SEND children we will be sourcing further adapted instruments and exploring how we can use the potential of musical technology to increase the provision and resources.

Vocal ensemble to be in place through the entire academic year. (Identify staff members who would be confident to run this consistently)

To provide whole class musical tuition (outside of Mini-Musican project) with the opportunity to continue independently if desired.

Offer extra curricular music clubs and enrichment programmes for all children to have the opportunity to participate in after the school timetable has been completed.

Engage in increased school musical performances throughout the school year.

This Music Plan is linked to the School Development Plan, driving continuous improvement in this area and will be part of the three-five-year Hillcross Strategic Plan so that it is in line with the National Plan for Music Education.

The school becomes a leading school in the local community and with their Music Hub (MMF) by 2029.

Further information (optional)

Merton Music Foundation - <https://mmf.org.uk/>

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.