

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

OAKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTHAMPTON

2025-2026

DETAILS	INFORMATION
Academic Year	2025-2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of school lead responsible for music	Jayne Glynn / Debbie Willis
Name of music education partners / organisations	Discover the Music Ltd

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

Our music curriculum overview is published on our school website - [click here](#).

Music plays a vital role in our daily school community. All classes across years 1-6 have a weekly music curriculum lesson lasting for 1 hour with a visiting music teacher from Discover the Music Ltd, our music partner. Year R classes receive a 30 minute specialist music lesson per week.

We model our provision on the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) non-statutory guidance.

Our children follow a progressive roadmap of practical based music lessons. Pupils have the best opportunity to reach the highest musical potential with training led by professionally trained musicians and in most cases qualified teachers. Discover the Music runs a meaningful training programme for all of its staff led by their most experienced and trained teachers.

Discover the Music have designed their own online curriculum programme which is accessible to their teachers and all staff in our school meaning that progress can be identified at all times encouraging all of our class teachers to keep up to date and accountable for the musical learning in their class.

The scheme of work is also used by our EYFS and Year R teaching staff meaning that every child across the school learns from the same progressive scheme through their school journey.

Here is a breakdown of the key learning study for each year group:

Year 1 & 2

In year 1 and 2, children learn to play the recorder, they sing and explore a range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. We believe that learning to play the recorder at a young age gives our pupils a solid foundation of musical knowledge before they move on to learn more advanced musical instruments in key stage 2.

The children learn to read traditional notation from the beginning underpinning our commitment to ensure our pupils are learning using the correct technique and habits from the off.

Singing is a key focus in key stage 1, offering children the skills they need to sing in tune and in unison adopting the correct posture and techniques from an early age.

Year 3

Year 3 children learn to play advanced musical instruments such as the trombone, trumpet, clarinet, flute, glockenspiel and guitar.

There is a big focus on classical music and opportunities for the children to perform as a year group orchestra / ensemble.

The units in year 3 give pupils their first opportunity to try an array of instruments that they then may choose to adopt through our peripatetic programme.

Children develop their understanding of the staff and notes on the staff in year 3 with some theory challenges designed to support the retention of their knowledge. They also learn to read and play longer pieces of music notation with less support from the arrow guide on screen, challenging them to count the correct note values independently and overall better understand how to read and play more fluently.

Year 4

When pupils reach year 4, the focus is to challenge pupils on their ability to read and play an instrument while singing at the same time, opening more opportunities for them to develop independence and more complex skills.

Children in year 4 learn to play the ukulele as their main instrument, along with their voice. By the end of the year, our year 4 pupils will be able to read and play open string notation, fretted notation (including playing basic melodies using correct picking and finger techniques) and an array of chords that enable them to play full length songs while singing at the same time.

Singing and playing at the same time requires perseverance and our music team have developed some fantastic resources to guide pupils through.

Year 5

In Year 5, pupils continue to develop their singing skills with the introduction of cultural studies. Children will learn about music from around the world including Brazil, Hawaii and Africa. With this in mind, pupils will learn to sing, speak and chant in authentic languages.

Before this, pupils work on introductory units aimed to increase their rhythmic reading skills using percussion instruments.

Rhythm challenges have been created to challenge pupils to read and play notated rhythm patterns both in unison and ensemble with multiple parts and groups. We are beginning to develop pupils' sense of ensemble ship and listening to everything happening around them.

Pupils will also begin to sing in multiple groups of parts including melody and harmony along with ostinato skills.

Year 6

In Year 6, our pupils bring together all of the skills they have learnt prior to create their own arrangements of well known songs.

Modelled on the BBC Radio 1 Live Lounge project, pupils explore original recordings and compare and contrast to acoustic arrangements using more accessible instruments such as guitar, piano, drums, recorders, glockenspiels, boomwhackers and more.

An introductory unit in September guides year 6 pupils through the songwriting process including building a firmer understanding of song structure, recognising bass line and chord changes, tempo, instrumentation and listening to melody and harmony parts within the vocal lines.

Pupils then take this learning on to create and produce their own arrangements with pupils leading on as much of the creative process as possible.

Other Key Skills

Throughout all year groups there are regular opportunities to compose music, improvise music and to listen to and watch live performances and recordings of an array of pieces of music from all genres.

Performances

Children from all year groups have opportunities to perform to their families throughout the year, particularly at Christmas and again in the summer. Discover the Music hosts a MusicFest concert every summer where they bring their teacher's professional orchestra to accompany the children creating a fully live experience.

The orchestra will accompany the children as they sing and play their instruments and it is a wonderful occasion bringing together the whole school community.

PART B - EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Our school hosts a weekly singing choir led by our music lead. The group plan to perform at the O2 Arena in London this year as part of the Young Voices singing programme.

Our school offers an after school instrumental lesson programme, again delivered by our music partner, Discover the Music Ltd. Currently, 44 children take lessons across the week. Instruments include piano, guitar, drums, singing, flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, french horn and violin.

Several of our pupils take part in local ensembles outside of school. Many are members of the Young Players Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra and String Ensemble hosted by our music partner, Discover the Music.

Discover the Music hosts their groups on Saturdays giving our pupils access to music making and social opportunities at the weekend and extra opportunities to perform more widely throughout the year.

Pupils taking peripatetic lessons are able to loan instruments to aid with home practice and development.

We have several pupils who have taken graded exams.

Performance is something we aim to offer more opportunities for across our school over the coming year.

PART C - MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

Our school has a weekly singing assembly led by our music lead teacher who specialises in singing.

We host concerts to parents and families showcasing the musical achievements of our children at various points across the year.

We take trips to see staged concerts and recitals and our music provider Discover the Music offers children the opportunity to hear their teachers playing their specialist instruments in lessons and in performances, including at our MusicFest concert where our children get to perform alongside a teacher's orchestra.

Our MusicFest performance usually lasts for 1 hour with approximately 10-12 pieces of music. The whole school will sing each song which has been carefully arranged by our music teachers to include opportunities and sections for the children to showcase their practical instrument playing elements too.

THE FUTURE

To undertake a fresh deep dive of music to assess the strengths and points for improvement across our entire music provision.

To review and strengthen our offer for children with disabilities and SEND. This includes how the curriculum is adapted and offers as much opportunity and accessibility to differentiated skills.

To consider re-introducing music based after school clubs and ensembles for more children to access.

To offer more opportunities for our children to perform. Such as offering children who take peripatetic lessons a chance to perform in assemblies and more often to parents.

To celebrate the musical achievements of our pupils outside of school such as presenting grade exam certificates in celebration assembly.

To introduce our children to more live performances by local visiting musicians.

To work with EYFS on curriculum provision and training.