

Music development plan summary: Maidenbower Infant School and Nursery



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Ms Ali Gale
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	West Sussex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sussex Music School for private music lessons

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.

Our Music Curriculum

At Maidenbower Infant School and Nursery our intent is to help every child discover a love and joy for music that lasts their whole lives. We provide children with opportunities to learn about music from other cultures and different genres of music. We have created a bespoke knowledge and skill progression document which is created using guidance from the following statutory and non-statutory documents: The National Curriculum 2012, The Model Music Curriculum, The Power of Music to Change Lives - A National Plan for Music, The Early Years Foundation Stage programmes of study, as well as the non-statutory documents 'Development Matters' and 'Birth to Five Matters'. We use these documents to guide our music curriculum and

we break down into small steps what we want the children to learn, in terms of knowledge and skills. Our music curriculum is bespoke for our school, to ensure that we meet the needs of the children within our community.

The structure of music lessons at Maidenbower Infant School and Nursery

In Nursery and Reception, our Early Years curriculum involves children having regular, cross curricular opportunities to play, explore and perform during high quality continuous provisions activities, relating to their topic. Children in Reception are taught more formal music lessons in addition to this, covering the areas of music within our knowledge and skill progression documents (singing, playing musical instruments, exploring, experimenting and composing music, as well as responding to music).

In Key Stage One, music is taught during weekly 30-45-minute lessons of whole class teaching. Each class teacher delivers the music lessons for their class. Children experience a variety of activities in these lessons, including singing, playing instruments, learning about rhythm, beat, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre and moving towards an understanding of notation. We are fortunate to have our studio space which we use when we access our percussion instruments. Children have music once a week including regular time to work with the instruments.

In addition, our Music Subject Leader selects a composer of the fortnight of either contemporary or classical music that the class teacher can share information about with their class, helping them to learn a little about the life of the composer and to listen to an example of their music.

Links to external music providers and staff CPD

Our Music Subject Leader attends meetings and CPD with our local music service, West Sussex Music Hub. She updates staff with subject knowledge and provides training to all staff to demonstrate how to teach music lessons to pupils delivering examples of high-quality practice through staff workshops.

As a school, we work closely with West Sussex Music Hub who provide our whole class music ensemble lessons in Year 2 in Ukelele, Djembe Drums or Recorder. We have also partnered with Sussex Music School who provide private, parent paid, one to one or small group piano lessons.

Accessibility to Music

We want every child at Maidenbower Infant school and Nursery to be able to enjoy and to have access to music. We make adaptations for children who may need support with music. Lessons begin with a recap of previously learned key music vocabulary and this

is regularly referred to, to reinforce learning. Our teachers explicitly model music skills or concepts. Children are given pictorial or visual aids to support their understanding and to simplify music terminology. We make adaptations to our curriculum content to ensure that all children can achieve and feel successful in music lessons. This may be pre-teaching key music concepts or vocabulary before the lesson and providing physical contact with instruments and having time to explore them before the lessons. We know that quite often, music lessons can be loud. Children who have a sensitivity to noise can wear ear defenders and can be warned in advance of loud noises from instruments. Short 'time out' breaks away from the learning environment can be provided, if necessary, in addition to movement breaks. We aim to include music in other daily repetitive routines, for example during the register, during number teaching and throughout other subjects. We adapt our teaching so that children experience music lessons in small groups, on a one to one basis and in whole class sessions. We also consider the practical layout of the room and its accessibility for all children and where to position children to maximise access to resources.

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 are partnered with Sussex Music Schools for Private Music lessons in piano and potentially violin lessons in the future. Through our Pupil Premium Grant, we provide opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to learn to play an instrument.
- We have a school choir for Year 1 and Year 2 children. This is free and runs on a weekly basis on a Thursday morning, before School. This club is led by our Music Subject Leader.
- There are opportunities for children to be involved with the SEND orchestra for Key Stage 1 through West Sussex Music Hub.

Part C: Musical experiences

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

Children in Key Stage One attend a 15-minute weekly singing assembly, with Reception joining us from the last few weeks of the Summer term. We learn a variety of songs of different genres covering the seasons and festivals.

In September, we have a visit from the Junk Orchestra. The children can experience playing instruments which are upcycled; designed and tuned to be melodic & instantly playable. This is a free event for all children in the school to experience and have fun with live music.

During the Christmas period, every child takes part in our Christmas dance show to parents, learning Christmas Songs for this whole school performance with an audience. We also host an outdoor event called 'Carols around the Tree', where parents, carers and families are invited to watch the Christmas tree lights switched on and the school choir sings carols and Christmas songs, encouraging everyone to join in! This is a wonderful community event for all to be involved in, as well as the opportunity for our school choir to performance in front of an audience. We also organised a yearly whole school event of 'Carols around the Crib', which includes singing Christmas songs and readings of the Christmas story by school staff and children.

As a school, we take part and host the 'Little Big Sing', a West Sussex Music Hub singing event with local schools. All participating schools learn the same songs to sing together and also perform their own individual school choice of song.

As part of our Easter celebrations, the school choir perform at our local church (Worth Church) and parents can come and watch. In June, the school choir perform at the school's 'Midsummer Madness' summer fayre.

In the future

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

Over the past three years, we have made significant changes to the way our music curriculum is planned and taught. We have more plans for the future, which include the following:

- Topical songs to be sung or learnt for each topic in KS1 to continue a wide exposure to music.
- Choir performance to school and parents during the 2025 school year.
- We have invited parents who are musicians to come and play their instruments during our school assemblies. We plan to extend this offer more widely within our local community so that children have more opportunities to watch and listen to live music, including orchestras.
- We would like to increase the opportunities for children to perform music to their parents. Over the next year (2025-2026), we will incorporate this into our school class assemblies and find more opportunities for parents to come into school to listen to their child sing or compose music.
- To continue to broaden children's library of music, we plan to organise for teachers to play their favourite songs to children as they come into assembly.

Teachers will explain to the children why that piece of music is their favourite. This will also ensure that children see their teachers and themselves as musicians/people who enjoy music.

- We have further plans for children to experience playing musical instruments and composing. During the next school year (2025-2026), we hope to offer an after school music club where children can explore and use the percussion instruments. Children in the club will also have the opportunity to perform to the rest of the school.
- As a school, we are committed to providing high-quality professional development for staff. We plan to continue to provide staff workshops, opportunities for teachers to interact and work along the locality music hubs, and also observe good practise from other teachers and the Music Subject Leader.

Further information

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.

Our school **Music Intent, Implementation and Impact statement** is on our website: [Music | Maidenbower Infant School](#)

The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education>

The National Curriculum 2012- Statutory music guidance
[National curriculum in England: music programmes of study - GOV.UK](#)

Sussex Music Hub
<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/sussex-music-hub/>

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