Highfield Primary School

Music Development Plan 2026-27





Music makes connections all around the world. It helps people communicate without using words.

(Highfield pupil, 2023)

Key Information	
Academic year that this statement and development plan covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Jonathan Gath

Highfield Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Music Development Plan 2026-2027

At Highfield Primary School, music is a way for children to express their emotions enjoyably and creatively. It plays an important role in personal development and at Highfield Primary School, we aim to provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform, listen to, analyse and enjoy music across a wide range of periods, genres and styles. We teach music to develop a sense of pride in individual and collective achievement. Through our teaching, we hope that children's listening skills will become more refined, and we also know that music helps to develop social skills, such as leadership, co-operation, tolerance and self-evaluation self-motivation, self-discipline, self-analysis. We ensure that through music, children have an awareness and appreciation of a wide range of cultural traditions. "Music makes connections all around the world. It helps people communicate without using words." (Pupil, 2023).

Self-Assessment			
Area	**Category**	**Description**	**Comments**
Curriculum	Timetabling	Not all classes receive a regular music lesson each week There is a regular timetabled curriculum music lesson for all children but not a full hour each week when combined with other provision There are regular timetabled curriculum music lessons in all years plus other provision which totals 1 hour per week for all children (can include singing assemblies etc)	Music timetabled - 20 mins singing assembly weekly, 40 mins music, weekly.
	Curriculum Design	Musical activity takes place in some or all classes but not necessarily tied to a formal school-wide curriculum There is a whole school curriculum in place for music which covers all parts of the National Curriculum There is a whole school curriculum in place which clearly maps progress and skills across the key stages. Additional aspects are embedded into the planning such as whole class instrumental music, school performances and special musical events	MTP built around progress and skills progression. Scrutinised by Music lead and SLT. Whole class music performances in class assemblies, productions and musical visitors. Steel Pans y5, Mambo Jambo KS1 etc...
	Assessment	We have limited capacity and/or expertise for assessing musical progress Class teachers record progress using video/audio recordings or written notes Progress is clearly recorded using video/audio or written notes and ML works closely with class teachers to monitor and support this process. There are opportunities for pupils to self and peer assess their work planned into lessons	Add opportunities for children to watch back recording of themselves and to see peers perform.
	Quality of teaching	It is uncertain whether all teachers are teaching music to a good standard each week	Music lead has been able to drop in and quality assure lessons as part of subject monitoring process.

		Music teaching is generally of a good standard, but there is still a need for further CPD and support in some areas Music teaching is consistently good quality throughout school and is monitored and supported well over the year	
	EYFS Music	It is uncertain how much music takes place in Nursery/Reception classes or whether it is of consistently good quality Music is regularly planned in to EYFS timetables and is generally of a good standard though some CPD and support may still be beneficial Singing is an integral and essential part of EYFS life. Songs and activities are appropriate to developing voices and carefully chosen to support early progress	EYFS to attend CPD delivered by Music Lead EYFS attended CPD provided by Artforms (January 2026).
Whole class instrumental provision	Whole Class	No whole class instrumental provision is currently in place Children learn to play an instrument as part of whole class learning during their time in school Whole class learning is fully integrated into the wider music curriculum and is deliberately placed for pupil progression. The instrument/s are also selected for progression and quality of delivery is consistently good. Duration Children are given a 'taster' on one or more instruments	Instrument learning to be cycled through KS2. Ukulele, Glockenspiel, Recorder building on the foundational skills practised in KS1.
	Duration	Children are given a 'taster' on one or more instruments in whole class lessons which is less than one year in duration Children are given a full year to learn an instrument and as such develop basic skills and knowledge securely in that time. There are opportunities during the year for the children to perform to others. Some children choose to carry on with that instrument (or a related instrument) at the end of the year	Instrument learning to be cycled through KS2. 2026 – Some children play an instrument for a year (peri lessons), others learn instruments in termly cycles across KS2. We cycle woodwind/percussion/stringed instruments through the KS to make instrument playing more accessible for more students.
Singing	School / KS / Year Group singing	Children only occasionally sing together as part of a larger group, maybe tied to performances or calendar events. Children sing together all or most weeks as part of a singing assembly or similar Regular singing assemblies are led by a specialist. Singing is an important and integral part of curriculum lessons, delivered by confident teachers skilled in delivering healthy singing	2026 – CPD in singing required for staff. May 2026 – Music lead attended Artforms CPD re singing and vocal warmups and will cascade CPD to staff.
	Choirs	There are currently no school choirs taking place regularly	Highfield choir heavily invested in local events, have

		There is at least one school choir which meets regularly led by a skilled teacher There are one or more school choirs, led by skilled singing leaders which have opportunities to perform regularly and/or take part in wider community events	performed with Artforms at Pudsey Civic Hall and Leeds Arena, as well as hosting a local choir showcase involving schools in our local area.
Instrumental and vocal lessons	Tuition	There are limited or no opportunities for children to learn to play an instrument in school Children have the opportunity to learn an instrument in at least one family of instruments. There are occasional opportunities for children to perform on their instruments There are opportunities for children to learn an instrument in various instrumental families with regular opportunities to perform to others. School regularly engages and plans with their instrumental tutors allowing for a consistent approach to music provision	In class, children learn percussion instruments, boomwhackers, ocarina's, glockenspiels, recorders, ukuleles. Additional/optional instruments: Guitar club Y1-Y6. Viola, Violin, Cello, Clarinet, Flute offered to Y3 – Y6 through Artforms.
	Whole class follow on	There are currently no opportunities for children to continue learning an instrument they have started in whole class teaching There are opportunities for children to continue learning the instrument (or a closely related instrument) after whole class lessons have finished There are opportunities for children to continue learning the instrument (or a closely related instrument) after whole class lessons have finished and a good number of children choose to do this	Guitar club introduced in Sept for whole school. (2025). Violin, Cello, Flute, Clarinet lessons offered for Y4 onwards – now extended to Y3 (2026).
	Ensembles	There are currently no instrumental ensembles in school or only very occasional ensemble playing opportunities Children learning some instruments have the chance to play in a school ensemble which rehearses regularly A child learning any instrument in school has the chance to play that instrument in an ensemble. There are regular performing opportunities with the group. Routes of progression for children including music centres and CLYM are signposted as appropriate	Class assemblies and orchestra performances. Guitar club performances. Steel pan performances. Offers for musical opportunities are sent to parents via the website/letters when they arise.
Inclusion	Inclusion	There are no provisions in place to support less affluent families. There is little adaptation in music lessons for children with additional needs or varying ability School applies for LMEP bursaries or finds other ways to support children from low income backgrounds to learn an instrument. Curriculum and instrumental lessons are	Music is available for all children, particularly those with SEND, SEMH. Learning mentor booked onto CPD First Aid for Youth Mental Health with Soundcastle

		planned to cater for children with carrying needs and ability. Pupils have opportunities to listen to and engage with music from different cultures, traditions and eras All staff (including visiting staff) are fully aware of any relevant additional needs in their classes. Lessons are well differentiated to cover all needs and abilities. Children are sensitively guided to learning an appropriate instrument for their specific needs Pupils have opportunities to listen to and engage with music from a wide variety of different cultures, traditions and eras	
Wider involvement	Hub participation	The school generally don't engage much with the Leeds music hub (LMEP) or other partner organisations in music There is some level of engagement with LMEP and Music Connect with occasional participation in local events The school has strong partnerships with LMEP, Music Connect and/or other organisations with regular participation in local events, workshops	Artforms involvement in terms of CPD for music lead, EYFS, choir events. Member of Music Mark Member of Leeds music leaders' network through the Red Kite Alliance.
	CPD	There is little capacity within school for the music lead or other staff to engage with music CPD Music lead has occasional opportunities to access CPD, other staff only rarely Music lead is able to access a higher level of music CPD and other staff in school are also accessing CPD or a higher level of support from the Music Lead or elsewhere	Music leads attends CPD events through Artforms, the Red Kite Alliance and Music Mark. Relevant CPD cascaded to staff.
	Links with other schools	There are currently no musical links with other schools Explore links with other schools. Some links are made with peer schools, other MAT schools, religious school networks or cluster networks. Occasional musical events may take place within these communities or resources and expertise are shared. Strong links are made with other schools with opportunities to share resources, expertise and to organise events. There are strong links made to local secondary schools for Y6 transition.	Consider performing at/with other schools. Music leader network meetings are beneficial – create closer links with family of schools. 2026 – Choir competition hosted by Highfield.
	Live Music	There are currently no opportunities for children to experience and enjoy live music There are occasional opportunities for some children to experience live music either on a trip or from visiting musicians All children have opportunity to experience live music over the course of the school year.	Find live music / workshops for EYFS

Music Development Plan

Overall Objectives	At Highfield Primary School, music is a way for children to express themselves enjoyably and creatively. Music plays an important role in personal development and at Highfield Primary School, we aim to provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform, listen to, analyse and enjoy music across a wide range of periods, genres and styles. We teach music to develop a sense of pride in individual and collective achievement. Through our teaching, we hope that children's listening skills will become more refined and we also know that music helps to develop social skills, such as leadership, co-operation, tolerance and self-evaluation self-motivation, self-discipline, self-analysis. We ensure that through music, children have an awareness and appreciation of a wide range of cultural traditions. "I like music because it's diverse and everyone can do it. It brings a bit of joy to the room." (Pupil, 2026).
Key Components	**Curriculum** Music is delivered using a combination of bespoke teaching and selected schemes. The 'playing and love of music' is a constant priority for Highfield and was written into our school development plan in 2024-25. A refreshed timetable for our school day ensures an hour of music per week including singing and playing of instruments, in addition to our existing curriculum. We plan to utilise CPD opportunities to enhance our singing provision and meet all components of the Model Music Curriculum. Our music provision is entirely inclusive, and all children have access to all music lessons. **Classroom instrumental teaching** Children in EYFS and KS1 use body percussion alongside other percussion instruments. Year1 and Year 2 play boom-whackers and are introduced to the ocarina. Each class in KS2 will learn the recorder, glockenspiel and ukulele each year, showing progression of skills as they move through school. We chose to cycle instruments to give children with different skill sets a chance to shine. Children learn the technical and constructive aspects of music through playing those instruments. Children learn how to read music using a stave, guitar / ukulele tablature and can transfer that skill across a range of instruments. **Links with external music organisations** Highfield are an Artforms 'Music Champion' school and are in the process of submitting reaccreditation to ArtsMark (May 2026). All children across school are offered an extracurricular guitar club provided by Get Into Guitar. Artforms provide the opportunity to learn flute, clarinet, 'Cello or violin to KS2 children. **CPD** Subject leader is part of the Music Mark network and has attended CPD provided by Artforms and the Red Kite Alliance, which is fed back to teaching staff. EYFS have attended CPD delivered by Artforms. **Performance opportunities** Children sing as part of an ensemble weekly. Music is an integral part of children's class assemblies Year 6 – EOY production; Summer concert for Violin, flute, 'Cello, clarinet players; guitar performance.

	Year 5 – Christmas performance; steel pans; Summer concert for Violin, flute, 'Cello, clarinet players; guitar performance. Year 4 – Robin Hood's Bay concert, Summer concert for Violin, flute, 'Cello, clarinet players; guitar performance. Year 3 – Moses and Joseph production; ukulele assembly; guitar performance. Year 2 – KS1 Christmas play; Mambo Jambo workshop Year 1 – KS1 Christmas play; Mambo Jambo workshop Rec – Nativity Children are invited to join the school choir who perform at Artforms events and host local singing showcases. All guitar pupils can partake in the guitar 'flashmob' at Christmas. Year 5/6 can join the orchestra who perform in the Church Carol service in December and as part of a musical showcase in the Summer term.
Communication	Parents are informed of musical events and opportunities through the website, newsletters, parent-mail and letters home. Children are informed of opportunities through their class teachers and assemblies.
Budget, resources, staff	Subject leaders (including music) are given time to scrutinise their subjects. Artforms offers small group instrumental teaching, live music performances in and out of school throughout the year at a subsidised cost. We are offered an online teaching platform, free of charge, through Artforms and we aim to add to, and make better use of, Out of the Ark music for singing assemblies.

Key areas Development Plan			
Area	**Actions**	**Date completed by**	**Evaluation**
Curriculum	Add opportunities for children to watch back recording of themselves and to see peers perform.	Introduced by September 2026 – Assessed July '27	
Whole Class Instrument teaching	Allow children to continue instruments they are learning in school already – set up a lunchtime club.	Introduced by September 2026 – Assessed July '27	
Singing	Music lead to pass Artforms singing and vocal CPD on to staff. Update the songs for singing assemblies.	Introduced by September 2026 – Assessed July '27	
Inclusion	Music lead to continue to liaise with SENDCo re: best practise for learners with sensory issues in music. SEND children to attend the Artforms SEND music experiences.	Introduced by September 2026 – Assessed July '27	

	Learning mentor to attend CPD First Aid for Youth Mental Health with Soundcastle		
Wider involvement	Perform music at/with other schools. Look for opportunities to visit local high school music departments and experience a sample lesson. Music leader to continue to attend network meetings and conference events.	Introduced by September 2026 – Assessed July '27	

Curriculum Music

Children learn music at Highfield for at least one hour a week including playing instruments and singing. Children also study the history of music; a range of composers; and the expressive elements of music to understand how composers put notes together to achieve the desired effect. Highfield music takes the model music curriculum and combines it with our own curriculum to create a bespoke music curriculum for our school. Children begin their musical journey in EYFS, where they focus on body percussion and beats and rhythms to create soundscapes. As children progress through KS1, they are introduced to tuned percussion instruments through the use of Boomwhackers. Children in KS2 learn the recorder, ukulele and glockenspiel termly and revisit each instrument yearly.

Co-curricular Music

Peripatetic teachers provided through Artforms deliver small group lessons in the clarinet, flute, violin and 'Cello to Y4,5,6 pupils who wish to take music further. This is paid to Artforms by parents with subsidies for Pupil Premium children. Children join the school orchestra in years 5 and 6 and perform for parents and the wider community throughout the year. The orchestra is free to join and is run by our music leader. Children attend weekly singing assemblies and are encouraged to join our choir, led by dedicated and experienced staff. The guitar club at Highfield is run by Get Into Guitar, a passionate group of musicians who provide lessons and performance opportunities for Year 1 upwards.

Highfield is fortunate to have timetabled dedicated teaching spaces for music lessons. Highfield is a member of the LMEP and Artforms, we are also members of Music Mark and the Red Kite Alliance.

Musical Experiences

Children at Highfield are offered the opportunity to attend a host of musical experiences throughout the year:

Musical experiences	
Participating in	Mambo Jambo percussion workshop steel pan workshops Artforms workshops bhangra workshops choir competitions Orchestra / choir carol service. Orchestra / Small group / choir summer concert Class assemblies Singing assemblies Interview with a professional musician
Experiencing as an audience member	orchestra visits theatre visits class assemblies Visits from High school bands