

Music development plan summary: Yatton Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Helen Tyler
Name of local music hub	West of England Music (WEMA)

Part A: Curriculum music

At Yatton Junior School, we believe that is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and it can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music reflects the culture and society we live in, and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in. Our curriculum intent for Music reflects the purpose and aims of the national curriculum by helping our pupils develop a love of music and their talent as musicians.

Our intent in the teaching of music is:

- to explore how sounds are made, and can be organised into musical structures;
- to show how music is produced by a variety of instruments;
- to teach how music is composed and written down using a variety of methods including using technology;
- to examine the relevance of when, where and why a given piece of music was written;
- to develop the interrelated skills of singing, performance, listening and composition.

We use the Charanga Musical School Scheme, to enable a whole school approach to our Music learning which is ideal for specialist and non-specialist teachers. We will provide weekly music lessons using this progressive scheme to help develop memory and build on previous learning.

Our planning is sequenced in long and medium terms plans and is intended to offer a broad and rich Music curriculum; providing many performance opportunities, offered throughout the fabric of school life. We access the lesson plans, assessment, and progression to ensure cohesion and to support non-specialist staff. The curriculum content is adapted to the context of our school and the pupils within. It provides a high quality, coherent and progressive experience of the subject through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions and genres.

Music within the Junior School, seeks to continue to develop from the strong foundation gained in the infant school where children follow the 'Jolly Music' scheme of learning through a Kodaly approach. We continue weekly music lessons ensuring a clear skills progression, a weekly singing assembly which aims to celebrate music through the performance of secular songs, as well as recognise our Christian distinctiveness.

In addition to the Charanga scheme, all children in KS2 have a term of instrumental learning; in LKS2 children learn to play the recorder and in UKS2 children learn to play the ukulele. In these lessons, children work around developing an awareness of rhythm and beat. Children learn notation and are to read simple music. They are taught musical terms and are expected to use these in discussing music they are reading and playing/singing. Children sing songs and have opportunities to refine and perform music to a wider audience of their peers and or parents.

All children receive weekly music lessons, taught during PPA time by a music specialist. The combination of these lessons as well as weekly singing worship ensures that children are receiving a minimum of 1 hour of music per week.

Adaptation – We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- encouraging children who receive peripatetic instruction through WEMA, to bring their instrument to music lessons to use within performance modules
- setting open-ended tasks which could have a variety of responses
- provide support and challenge through the scaffolds used (stave music/note names)
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty

Assessment – On-going Assessment for Learning (AfL) practices are used within class sessions, including the sharing of and reference being made to Learning Objective and Success Criteria. We use self and peer assessments to show understanding, outcomes and progress. The first and last lesson within a unit include baseline assessment to gauge children's understanding of key concepts and is used to assess progress over the unit. Planning is adapted based on individual class needs. Children who show a greater depth of understanding are supported through challenge activities and opportunities to perform for peers. At the end of the year, teachers make a summary judgement about the musical skills and development of each pupil in relation to the National Curriculum Framework.

Our planning is based on the National Curriculum and has been informed by the Charanga scheme of work and WEMA.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Yatton Junior School we wholeheartedly support any child who wishes to learn a musical instrument. We believe that this will help to develop their general listening skills, co-ordination and motor control, self-confidence, personal responsibility and social interaction as well as their general enjoyment of music. We actively encourage students to become involved in music and look for opportunities throughout the year to be able to showcase our instrumentalists in performance too and we offer this at least once a year in the

summer term, where instrumentalists take part in the whole school event 'Yatton's Got Talent!' We regularly hear and celebrate performances of instrumentalists during our weekly singing assemblies and invite peripatetic teachers to come and showcase their instruments in music assemblies.

We offer optional peripatetic music tuition to all children. Although this is chargeable (up to date costs and sign-up information provided at least once a year), we offer support where we can to make this accessible to all. Those with particular circumstances such as pupil premium are encouraged to contact school to discuss their access needs.

We have 3 WEMA tutors who visit our school and provide one-to-one and small group recorders, guitars, violin and saxophone tuition. WEMA can also offer other instruments upon request as well as instrument loan as needed. Children are free to learn for pleasure or work towards grades as they wish and in discussion with their teacher.

The Junior School also has two well-established choirs (3/4 and 5/6) who meet weekly and are taught by a WEMA music specialist. Within these sessions, children learn through a Kodaly approach and build upon class lessons to develop a greater understanding of musicianship. The opportunity to perform throughout the year at different musical events is clearly established and their efforts are celebrated within assemblies. There is an additional cost as this is a private tutor.

In addition to the amazing 'Spotlight Sparkler' choirs, there are also two singing events within school that any child in year 5 and 6 may attend – WEMA Christmas Celebration and THE BIG SING. All parents are contacted about the events in due course and the practices are run during school time to allow all children to attend and school supports these ventures by paying for the coach to attend the performances.

As a school we regularly signpost children via the school newsletter to high quality music opportunities provided by or via WEMA. This might include access to join ensembles, orchestras and groups provided by WEMA.

Part C: Musical experiences

We have weekly whole school singing assemblies (explicit music teaching) and have some singing opportunities in other whole class assemblies and termly celebrations - 'Big Meet Ups'.

We also invite a group in, provided by WEMA, to offer a live music opportunity each year.

Children in Year 5 and 6 have the opportunity to take part in the WEMA Christmas Celebration and the Big Sing. These singing events are subsidised by the school and are open to all children within these year groups.

In collaboration with WEMA, children have the opportunity to access musical workshops each year. These are paid workshops that complement the learning within class.

In the Autumn 2 term, children in year 3,4 and 5 take part in a Christmas production. The delivery of this is taught during music lessons. All children take part and these are performed to the whole school and to parents/carers. Within this term, children are encouraged to audition for solo singing parts, small group parts and the whole class ensemble. Children perform to a high standard, singing from memory songs with different parts, with consideration to pitch, tempo and dynamics. Children in Year 6 take part in a Christmas Carol Service, which takes place in our local church, where

parents/carers and members of the community can attend. They learn and perform from memory different songs, traditional and modern, and have the opportunity to sing solos, in small groups and as a whole. They also have the opportunity to play tuned and untuned instruments to accompany the performance.

In the Summer 2 term, Year 6 learn and perform a musical production for the whole school and parents/carers. This gives them an opportunity to demonstrate key skills learned throughout their time in Yatton Junior School.

Children are also invited to perform within our community setting during events planned throughout the year; Easter and Christmas whole school events.

Our two school choirs perform regularly at events in the local and wider community. As well as these, the pupils in Year 5 and 6 choir, have the opportunity to perform in the live musical concert, Young Voices, in Birmingham, performing choral pieces with a 6000 strong choir.

Our aim is to provide many performance opportunities where cost is at a minimum to enable as many children as possible to experience quality music provision.

In the future

In subsequent years we will look to:

- develop a sequence of assemblies celebrating instrumentalists, inviting peripatetic teachers who will perform and showcase their students learning
- implement a Plan, Do, Check, Review approach to assessment
- promote the wider variety of instruments on offer through WEMA
- up level teachers' music teaching and confidence to teach music through CPD opportunities, staff meetings and observing music lead teaching
- to increase singing opportunities within our other whole school acts of worship
- revisit how history of music is taught/learned and link this to the MMC
- create a series of teaching resources that non-specialists can use to ensure quality provision
- develop IT within the curriculum, particularly within upper KS2
- look at ways to develop a school ensemble – Samba band, WEMA/teacher lead

Further information (optional)

Our local music hub is West of England Music and Arts (WEMA)

<https://wema.org.uk/>