

Music development plan summary: Deanwood Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jane Wright
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dynamics Medway Music Association

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.

At Deanwood we are passionate about making musical learning engaging, enjoyable and meaningful; we want children to leave Deanwood with an interest and passion for music of their own.

The scheme "Sparkyard" is used to support teachers' subject knowledge and scaffold the children's learning all of the way from the EYFS up to Year 6. This is a flexible, skills-based curriculum which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum. Sparkyard offers staff the flexibility to use their own judgements and to teach what is relevant to their class whilst keeping singing and musical engagement very much at the heart.

Our music curriculum is designed so pupils can become well-rounded musical individuals. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences which are

designed to build confidence as well as musical skill. Children are encouraged to listen to, appreciate and explore different forms of music of increasing length as they move throughout the school in order that they can become reflective and expressive when exploring their own and others' music.

Within lessons, children develop an understanding of the elements of music by actively listening to a range of music, exploring and learning songs, composing and performing, and using a range of classroom instruments. Alongside the provisions at Deanwood, we also work with Medway Dynamics and the Kent Music Hub to provide children with wider opportunities in music, which include instrumental skill.

Children receive the equivalent of one hour of music education over the course of a week. However, this may be "blocked" over the period of a few days as this can offer better teaching and learning opportunities.

In addition to Sparkyard, the school works with Dynamics and Kent Music to provide the children with wider musical opportunities:

- In Key Stage 1, all children and staff participate in a music project which works as an introduction to general musicianship skills
- In Key Stage 2, all children develop percussive and rhythmic skills through Samba music sessions delivered by a Licensed Music Teacher
- All children in Years 3 and 4 receive a weekly recorder lesson delivered by a Licensed Music Teacher with the aim of developing their ability to read, play and perform music

To optimise outcomes for SEND pupils we provide help in managing the written communication aspects of music – such as the use of symbols – by using larger print, colour codes, multi-sensory reinforcement, and a greater emphasis on aural memory skills. Music vocabulary is continually referred to in music lessons and assemblies to provide opportunities for children to understand how to apply their knowledge and skills in differing contexts. We maximise the learning experience with opportunities to learn about music through physical contact with an instrument, breaking tasks into manageable chunks and allowing rehearsal time before performance tasks. We use a lot of modelling, anticipate barriers and aim to establish a learning environment which promotes resilience.

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.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 are given the opportunity to learn the flute as a means of further developing the skills that they have learnt during their recorder lessons. Flute lessons take place weekly and are delivered by a Licensed Music Teacher. The tuition is funded for the first year and, if the children want to continue in the following year, parents can pay a discounted rate for lessons.

In Years 5 and 6, children are given the opportunity to learn trumpet, trombone or tenor horn. Lessons are delivered by a Licensed Music Teacher and are fully funded by the local Music Hub.

All instruments are loaned free of charge by Dynamics. Whilst children are encouraged to practice their instruments at home, if this is not possible, the Music Lead runs a KS2 Instrument Practice Club on a Wednesday lunchtime in the Music Room.

The Music Lead runs a choir (supported by 2 other members of staff) and the children are given the opportunity to perform to the rest of the school and their families.

The proportion of Pupil Premium and SEND children accessing extra-curricular music opportunities is in line with the rest of the school population.

Some children attend Saturday Music Centres and holiday courses run by Medway Music Association. The school ensures that they advertise upcoming events to all parents and students at the earliest possible opportunity.

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.

Our aim is to maximise the cultural capital children receive from the musical education they receive at Deanwood by exposing them to musical influences and pieces from a range of styles, artists and time periods.

To help our children to become inquisitive, respectful and knowledgeable music listeners, we use the Musician of the Month programme. The aim of the programme is to create a culture of musical appreciation across the school. Each month, the children are introduced to a new musician in a whole school assembly, with a focus on understanding the stories behind the musician's life and how this will have impacted upon their musical journey. Throughout the month, the children are given opportunities to listen to the artist's music in assemblies and to complete activities in class to help them to discover more about them.

The programme is constructed in such a way that it ensures that there is representation from the protected characteristics, as well as equal representation from both genders within music traditions from across the globe, Western classical musicians and popular music.

All children attend a weekly singing assembly where they are given the opportunity to sign a variety of songs which help them to develop their musical skills such as singing in two parts. The weekly singing assembly is also taken as an opportunity to further develop the children's knowledge of the Dimensions of Music which they can then take back into their class music lessons. The Music Lead is supported by a member of staff in these assemblies as a means of further developing the musical skills of all teaching staff.

At special times of the year (Harvest, Christmas and Easter), the school has an assembly where each class eg: sings a song to the rest of the school. This helps the children to develop their confidence to perform in front of others from a young age.

Children in Early Years are given the opportunity to perform songs to parents and the rest of the school in their Christmas celebrations. In Year 6, the children perform an end of year production to an audience in July. This regularly involves some solo, harmony and ensemble singing.

The school's Music Lead has leads assemblies where she demonstrates her flute to the school and talks about her own musical experiences. As well as this, children learning brass instruments have been given the opportunity to perform in a group to their peers. This gives the children the opportunity to become more familiar with orchestral instruments.

In the future

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

We will continue to work with Kent Music and Dynamics to further develop music education at Deanwood.

We aim to further develop the KS2 Choir so that they are able to attend events put on by Kent Music which give opportunities for singing in a larger group.

We aim to investigate ways in which we can give the children further opportunities to watch live music events as well as meeting visiting.

We aim to further develop parental understanding of the importance of music education so that a greater number of parents are willing to continue funding instrumental lessons once their child's funding has come to an end.

Further information

During the last academic year, the Trust's Primary Music Leads worked with Kent Music to further develop music leadership across all of the Primary Academies.

During the last academic year, children at Deanwood joined children from Temple Mill and Miers Court to perform alongside Dominic Ferris (Steinway Ambassador) at the Rainham Piano Festival – there is a possibility that this may take place again this academic year.