



School Music Development Plan

Summary — 2025 to 2026 Academic Year



School name	Highfields Primary Academy
Local authority / trust	Primitas Learning Partnership
Number of pupils	206
Music lead	Laura Setterfield
Headteacher	Mark Wilkes
Local music hub	Entrust Music Services
Date of plan	September 2025

Part A: Curriculum Music

This section is about what we teach in the classroom as part of our music curriculum. At Highfields Primary Academy, music is a valued part of our curriculum from Reception through to Year 6.

Curriculum Intent

At Highfields Primary Academy, our music curriculum intends to inspire children to be creative, self-expressive and encourages them start on a musical journey which will ignite a passion for music. We will provide them the opportunities to connect with others and expose them to diverse musical experiences and musical cultures allowing them to become performers in a variety of situations. By listening to and responding to a variety of different styles, we will encourage them to find their voices and musical talent as singers, performers and composers, enabling them to become confident and reflective musicians. We aim for every child to develop a love of music and have confidence as a musician whether as a singer, player, listener, or composer. We believe music should be accessible to all children, including those with SEND, and that it can powerfully enrich children's lives and wellbeing.

What We Teach

Pupils in all year groups receive timetabled music across the year. In some terms, it may be weekly, in other terms it may be taught as a block. We use Charanga Music to aid our music teaching. Our curriculum covers:

- **Singing:** All pupils at Highfields Primary School sing regularly as a whole school. We have a weekly singing assembly for the whole school. Singing is also central to our curriculum from EYFS to Year 6. Each Charanga unit teaches at least 3 songs.
- **Listening and appraising:** Pupils listen to a wide range of music across genres, traditions, and historical periods, including Western classical music, jazz, folk, and music from around the world.
- **Playing instruments:** Pupils learn to play tuned and untuned instruments at class level, building skills in rhythm, pitch, notation, and ensemble playing.
- **Composing and improvising:** Pupils have opportunities to create, refine and record their own musical ideas using instruments and digital tools. Children have access to tuned and untuned percussion and the Creative Tools on Charanga.
- **Music theory and notation:** Pupils are introduced to staff notation, rhythm notation and musical vocabulary progressively across key stages.

Curriculum Implementation

We use Charanga to structure lessons, supplemented by staff expertise. The Charanga units have been put together to design an EYFS to Year 6 curriculum that is bespoke to our school. All class teachers deliver music lessons with support from the music lead.

Children with SEND are supported to access the full curriculum. We make reasonable adjustments to ensure all children can participate fully. This could include: adapted resources, personalised instruments, differentiated tasks and adult support.

Part B: Co-Curricular Music (Instrument and Vocal Tuition)

This section is about the music opportunities available to pupils beyond the classroom, including peripatetic lessons, ensembles, and choirs.

Instrument Tuition

In Key Stage 2, we offer pupils the opportunity to receive individual or small-group instrument lessons from peripatetic teachers, working in partnership with our local music hub. Instruments currently available include:

- Guitar (acoustic)
- Piano / keyboard
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet)
- Brass (trumpet)

Lessons take place during the school day. We actively encourage take-up across all key stage 2 classes and all backgrounds. To do this, we have assemblies where peripatetic staff can demonstrate their instrument. The music lead and headteacher are both musicians who play a variety of instruments. These instruments are shown during assemblies to encourage children to play.

Subsidised and Free Places

We are committed to removing financial barriers to music. Pupils eligible for pupil premium are eligible for free or subsidised peripatetic tuition. Families are encouraged to speak with the school office in confidence.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This section covers the wider musical life of the school, including performances, concerts, and trips.

Singing and Ensembles

- School Choir: Open to all pupils from Year 3 upwards. The choir meets weekly and performs at Young Voices each January/February; school events and the local community.

Performances and Concerts

We provide regular performance opportunities for all pupils throughout the year. Planned events for 2025–2026 include:

- Autumn Term: EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas performances. Years 3/4 Christmas performance. Year 5/6 Carol Service at the local Church. Whole-school Christmas singing assembly.
- Spring Term: Whole-school singing assembly. Young Voices. Choir performance at the Circus.
- Summer Term: End-of-year summer assembly featuring all children who have in-school music lessons, school choir and any other children who may play instruments out of school

Musical Experiences in School

- Live performances: We aim to bring performers into school at least once per year to inspire pupils.
- Music in assemblies: Music plays an active role in assemblies. Throughout the year, assemblies are planned around musicians and music styles. Pupils regularly listen to, discuss, and respond to a wide range of musical styles.

Part D: In the Future

This section sets out the improvements we are planning for music at our school over the coming year, based on self-evaluation and the priorities identified in our music development plan.

Priorities for 2025–2026

Priority / Action	Intended Impact	Timescale
Increase take-up of peripatetic instrument lessons for all pupils in KS2.	More pupils receiving instrument tuition; greater equity of access across the school.	Autumn term 2025
Strengthen CPD for class teachers — deliver two music-specific training sessions and signpost hub resources.	Greater staff confidence in delivering high-quality music lessons; reduced reliance on external delivery	Throughout 2025–26
Develop links with Entrust Music Service to access additional ensemble opportunities for children who have peripatetic lessons.	More pupils engaged in ensemble music-making using Staffordshire Music Hub.	Spring–Summer 2026

Further Information and Links

For further information about our music provision, please contact:

- Laura Setterfield - Music Lead. office@highfields.staffs.sch.uk

Useful links:

- Entrust Music: www.entrustmusic.co.uk/
- National Plan for Music Education: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education
- The Music Partnership: www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/
- Music Curriculum at Highfields Primary Academy: www.highfields.staffs.sch.uk/music/
- Music curriculum resources: www.gov.uk/government/publications/teaching-music-in-schools

This summary will be reviewed and updated annually before the start of each new academic year.