

Music development plan summary: The District CE Primary School

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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	May 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lauren Donafee
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Cotterill
Name of local music hub	St Helens Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

At The District, our music curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum and aims to provide children with a broad and balanced coverage of musical genres and instrumental learning. Children complete three units each year, with one dedicated to whole class instrumental instruction. As part of the Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust, we apply our values of Excellence, Endurance, Friendship, Wisdom and Trust to all our musical endeavours.

We follow the Charanga Scheme, which has been adapted to ensure children are given opportunities to listen, appraise, compose, play, perform and reflect in all phases and key stages.

Upbeat Academy

The District CE is supported by Upbeat Academy, who provides whole class instrumental instruction. Individual and group lessons are also offered as part of our extra-curricular offer.

SEND and Vulnerable Children

Where a child may need adapted instruments, we seek advice from our local Music Hub to source and provide these. We aim to implement adaptive strategies, to meet the needs of all pupils. Children are also identified to attend extra-curricular clubs, with subsidised or free places.

Singing

During their time at The District, children are taught how to pay attention to phrasing and dynamics, breathing technique, how to sing expressively and how to adapt their singing posture. Children are given the opportunity to sing solo, as part of a group and sing songs that are performed in more than one part.

Instrumental Teaching

In EYFS, children receive instrumental teaching from our external provider.

In Key Stage 1, children learn to play the glockenspiel. One whole term is dedicated to developing their playing skills and technique (taught by an external provider) with the other two terms allowing for additional practice and opportunities to consolidate their playing skills.

In Key Stage 2, children learn to play the ukulele. One whole term is dedicated to developing their playing skills and technique (this is taught by an external provider or the class teacher).

Performance Opportunities

At the end of each unit, children are given the opportunity to perform (singing or instrumental). This can involve inviting parents in to perform their instrumental learning, or performing for peers. Children also perform in nativities, church services, a Year 6 performance and District's Got Talent. The top two acts from our talent show are invited to perform in a local talent show within the community. When they are confident, older pupils, who receive extra-curricular tuition, are invited to perform to younger pupils.

In EYFS, children sing nursery rhymes and parents are invited in to hear them sing Christmas songs.

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.

At The District, our children are able to benefit from individual, paired or small group instrumental lessons, which are provided by Upbeat Academy. Children are able to choose from:

- keyboard
- guitar
- drums
- clarinet
- flute

If a child wishes to learn a brass instrument, this is provided by St Helens Music Service. All lessons take place within a room that is set aside for music tuition.

All instrumental instruction outside of the whole class instruction is costed. Vulnerable children who demonstrate a keen interest in continuing to learn an instrument can be supported financially.

Our school takes great pride in its school choir (Y3-6), who regularly perform at church events, with local adult choirs, in the local community and also at larger mass choral events. They also have the opportunity to compete within our Rainbow Trust “Choir of the Year” competition, and receive feedback from a judge. Our choir runs for 5 half terms each year, and takes place after school. A voluntary contribution is made by parents, and this is then used to support transport to and from choir events. The school choir also visits a local care home at Christmas to perform Christmas Carols.

KS2 children are also able to join our ukulele club, where they can consolidate their ukulele playing.

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.

Orchestras

During their time at The District, we aim to ensure that all children will have had the opportunity to watch a live orchestra at least once.

Pantomimes

Children will visit an external pantomime at least once during their time at The District. Where possible, pantomimes are also brought into school.

Musical Performances

Children have the opportunity to see small group ensembles and also vocalists. Additional small group ensembles include a voluntary contribution, and all children attend that are invited.

In the future

- Develop our teaching of singing with harmony.
- Expand our musical experiences for children.
- Explore alternative schemes that raise the profile of music within the curriculum.
- Play Leaders introducing skipping with singing games.
- Explore links with our local high school.
- Explore opportunities for joint, local choir performances within Newton-le-Willows.