

Music development plan summary: Pear Tree Mead Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emily Bevans
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Arnould
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady Music Charanga

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.

Music is a unique way of communicating, that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression, and can play an important part in the personal development of people. Music at Pear Tree Mead Academy reflects the culture and society we live in, so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world they live in and plays an important part in helping children feel part of a community. Besides being a creative and enjoyable activity, music can also be a highly academic and demanding subject. We provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform and enjoy music, to develop the skills, to appreciate a wide variety of musical forms, and to begin to make judgements about the quality of music.

The objectives of teaching music in our school are to enable children to:

- know and understand how sounds are made and then organised into musical structures;
- know how music is made through a variety of instruments;
- know how music is composed and recorded;
- know how music is influenced by the time, place and purpose for which it was written;
- develop the interrelated skills of performing, composing and appreciating music.
- To develop confidence when performing both in class and to a wider audience.

How is the subject taught and covered at PTM?

Music is taught through the Charanga programme which is in line with the Model Music curriculum. [Charanga's Musical School programme.](#)

This Scheme is based on: Listening and Appraising; Musical Activities; creating and exploring; and Singing and Performing. Charanga provides teachers with week-by-week lessons for each year group in the school. It is ideal for specialist and nonspecialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, and engaging and exciting whiteboard resources for every lesson. The Scheme supports all the requirements of the national curriculum and is in line with published Ofsted guidance.

Charanga - Throughout the year, 4 units from the Charanga scheme are covered by each class, these fully cover the National Curriculum objectives and the Model Music curriculum. The two remaining units cover music through the Music performance, choir, music lessons or end of year performances. Over the year all year groups cover at least an hour of music a week.

Charanga Units of Work enable children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. Units are based around a song. E.g. Mamma Mia or Happy.

Music lessons - Music is also covered through ukulele lessons in year 5.

We also have a large uptake with children from Reception to year 6 who participate in weekly Rock Steady sessions, which supports a wide variety of instrumental learning (keyboard, vocals, guitar and drums). These sessions are private music sessions taking place in the school day and funded by the parents. As a school we receive 3 spaces annually to support disadvantaged students in learning a musical skill.

Early Years – The early years explore music in many different ways such as through action songs (Wiggle dance), singing Nursery rhymes with the use of nursery rhyme spoons, encouraging the children to sing their own songs (sharing experiences during carpet times), exploring musical instruments, looking at how these can make a loud/quiet sound and also linking music to the topic being taught such as when looking at Chinese New Year, we explore the dragon dance and listen to traditional music.

SEND – Nurture Group

On Charanga there is a discrete area, many teachers use the section alongside the main Musical School platform, allowing them to find the most appropriate resources for each learner. This area provides opportunities for pupils that you feel do not get the full impact from the main platform.

The SEND sections used at PTM:

SEND Scheme – Anyone Can Play

These are ready-made lessons called 'Anyone Can Play' and are devised by the Music Unlimited team, leveraging its 30 years of experience in special school settings. They are used for young children at any point on the learning difficulty spectrum and is ideal for use by the non-specialist teachers like our nurture provision.

SEND Freestyle – Resource Library

The SEND Freestyle library provides bespoke versions of the most popular Charanga resources from the Musical School platform. These lighter versions can provide a seamless pathway into the main Freestyle section. These are again used by our nurture provision following the units used in their settings.

Does it differ for each key stage, enabling progression?

The Charanga scheme of work ensures that the yearly objectives are sufficiently covered, and that each year group is being taught the skills necessary for being a successful learner. The scheme is in-line with research advocating a repetitive and consolidation of skills allowing knowledge to embed into the long term memory.

Charanga encourages children to sing, play, improvise, compose and perform through the week-by-week lessons. These lessons follow a set pattern which slowly builds upon the previous learning and are part of the learning spiral, that Charanga is based upon. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Repeating a musical skill doesn't necessarily mean their progress is slowing down or their development

is moving backwards! It's just shifting within the spiral. Mastery means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

How is the subject delivered to give the best impact and varied?

Music is delivered weekly and through the lesson units the children learn about turn taking, anticipation, working with others, respect and appreciation of others, making choices and building self-esteem. Adults are skilled and can supplement lessons by using instruments and other necessary resources e.g. sheet music. Extra sessions have been added to units to practice skills. In Key Stage one staff use their paired class to deliver the end of unit outcomes to SLT showcasing their learning and providing them with an opportunity to rehearse, adapt and present their interpretation of a song. This is always different to their paired class.

What is taught in different year groups?

All the learning in Charanga is built around the Interrelated Dimensions of Music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. These dimensions are at the centre of all the learning in every year group.

Support

We are working closely with Essex Music Hub to provide a rounded and varied approach to Music. Charanga is endorsed by EMH and this is followed at PTM. The Charanga team provide training as a school, community and for individuals. This has been accessed many times at PTM to enhance and understand the curriculum better.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

These are the opportunities that PTM children have above and beyond our Music lessons delivered by the class.

Choir – This opportunity is for 25 Y5 and Y6 children and will be held on a Tuesday and Thursday lunch times and will last two terms. They will perform at the Young voices concert every other year at the O2. This is subsidised by the school and parents need to give a payment to cover the rest of the event. The children fundraise to make this less. Parents have to buy their own ticket if they wish to be a part of the audience. On the opposite year the Choir have an opportunity to carol sing in the community and perform for a range of people. All local events that take place are arranged and paid for by the school. The Choir also do carol singing at the local Care centres, Christmas bazaar and community events.

Rock Steady Music (Rock Band) – Rock Steady are an inclusive music provider that fits into the school day and routines. Children don't have an instrument loaned to practice on and there's no experience necessary and all instruments are provided, so it's inclusive and accessible. Children can choose from vocals, keyboard, drums, bass, or electric guitar (subject to availability). They'll join their bandmates for a weekly 30minute lesson, where they'll learn some of their favourite songs. Children and family can proudly watch as bands perform in an end of term concert, showing how far they have

come. Parents can follow their musical journey in your Backstage Account for regular updates on their progress and occasional photos or videos of them in lessons. The band leader will support and inspire child while making sure they progress at their own pace. Children will work towards an official, exam-free, Ofqual-regulated music qualification, at no extra cost and the longer child stays with Rocksteady, the further they will progress!

There are two bursary spaces and one pupil premium space available for children at PTM and these are allocated to children showing a musical interest who might not have the means to try a musical club or activity. All the other spaces are paid for by the families per month. We currently have 54 children that take part, making up 9 bands. To ensure the best experience the bands practice in our Discovery room where they will not be distracted and ensure that all children have to best environment to learn and thrive.

Ukulele lessons – Essex Music services provide the school with a trained specialist to teach our children the Ukulele. It is of no cost to the children or school and this opportunity is for Y5 children. The sessions take place in the school day and are held for 10 weeks in the Spring term. At the end of the sessions children showcase their learning to parents in a performance.

Part C: Musical events and performances

Pupils preform the following performances:

Choir – Weekly practice for Y5 and Y6 children.

Church singing – All Y6 pupils decide what songs they would like to sing and rehearse and perform to an audience in the local church. There is a speaking part for all children to tie the songs together with a theme. The local community are also invited.

Leavers assembly - Year 6 children design, rehearse and perform their leavers assembly each year. This is a mixture of speaking, singing and presenting. This is watched by parents and others members of the school community.

Rock Band – All Rock Band members will perform in front of the whole school and parents show casing their set. This is done three times a year.

Pre School and Nursery – Perform a Christmas sing a long show for the school and parents. This is based around singing and movements.

Whole School Assemblies – children get a chance to listen to wide range of music and participate in a range of singing.

Reception – Perform an Easter show for the school and parents. This is based around singing and movements.

Y1 – Nativity performance where the children are assigned speak parts. All children sing and perform dances to the songs. This is performed in front of the school community and the parents.

Y2 – A class Assembly based on their learning is done for the parents and this will include singing and performing.

Y3 – A class Assembly based on their learning is done for the parents and this will include singing and performing.

Y5 – Ukulele performance. This is where the children show case their learning from the lessons, provided by a musical expert, to parents and members of the school community.

Pupils watch the following performances:

Harvest Festival – All Y3-Y6 children attend a Harvest festival at the local church where they listen and participate in the singing and prayers.

Church service – All Y3 and Y4 attend the church for an Easter service where they will listen to the service and sing the songs that are practiced.

Church singing – Y5 pupils, along with members of the community see their peers perform and speak in the local church.

Professional Pantomime – We have two Pantomimes a year that children in Reception to Y6 attend. One is based on a play for World Book Day and encourages audience participation. The other is around Christmas and this changes annually. They are free to children as they are paid for by school and FOPTM as a reward for their hard work and dedication to the school.

Rock Band – The whole school watch their peers perform their set. This happens three times a year.

Local performance – Y4 attend a preview of a show performed by our local secondary school. This is done annually and is free to the children.

Dress rehearsals – throughout the year we allow the different year groups to watch the dress rehearsals of the up-and-coming events. This is where the children have an opportunity to perform in front of an audience and the children are welcomed to share their views and thoughts on the events. This helps them to identify their favourite parts but also elements that they feel could be different. The children then have feedback on which to improve before the final performance.

In the future

In the last academic year we joined a local academy trust. This has allowed us access to many exciting opportunities for our future Music development.

The actions are as follows:

- Introducing a London or touring west end show experience. This is currently in place within our trust school so we will explore this further for Y3 and Y4.
- To make links with the Royal Opera House in London to get access to discounted tickets and look to take Y5 or Y6 children on the tube to this event. There are numerous CPD opportunities that we could participate in and support staff development.
- To speak with staff about taking a recorders club within school time.
- To meet with Essex Music Hub to discuss more opportunities and offers for Social care children.
- To link up with our trust schools and participate in the African drumming lesson offered at Passmores. This would be free of charge and after school.
- To investigate and trail a new music scheme following feedback from staff around the limited opportunities to embed music and composing in the curriculum. [Free Resources | Sing Up](#)

Further information

For parents - The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.