

Music development plan summary: Overdale Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Katie Thomas
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub

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. This summary also includes what changes we are planning for future years. This information is to help pupils, parents and 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.

Overdale Junior School (OJS) was invited to become a member of the Music Mark community in 2023 and again in 2024. We also hold a highly esteemed silver level Quality Music Mark.

We follow the Leicestershire Music Primary Scheme which fulfils the National Curriculum statutory requirements (2014) and aligns with the Model Music Curriculum guidance (2021).

We work to the aims of the National Curriculum so that all pupils

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and use their voices; create and compose music on their own and with others; have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; use

technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence

- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Our curriculum supports a school-wide vision for music: to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

There are 6 units of work available for each year group, with a clear progressive approach that builds on substantive and disciplinary knowledge from year to year:

- Pitch
- Voice
- Rhythm
- Pulse
- 20th Century music
- Music technology

These units allow children to develop and secure their knowledge of the inter-related dimensions of music. At OJS, we include instrumental tuition in each year group for part of the year, and so the learning objectives from units above would be incorporated into the instrument tuition. Playing an instrument improves confidence, memory and patience and helps develop creativity.

Music technology is taught specifically in Year 5 and is touched on throughout other years, less formally at present.

Children gain the skills, knowledge and understanding to improvise and compose, perform individually or in groups and appraise the music surrounding them. They are given the opportunity to explore their voice, digital creativity and musicianship using a variety of instruments to develop creative, original musical work. They work independently and collaboratively on deepening their understanding of technical knowledge to accurately produce sounds and communicate their music to others, including through western notation. They learn to construct and deconstruct music to further their own ability to compose and they learn to gain an understanding of expression and what expressive knowledge means musically when performing and evaluating their work.

Skills and knowledge are revisited through increasing depth over time, taking a holistic and cyclic approach to the development of musicianship. Through building on prior knowledge and understanding, the foundations are laid for a secure musical education, preparing children for the next stage. Children become familiar with a planned

progressive musical vocabulary presented through meaningful practical engagement in music

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Y3	20th Century Music	Voice	Instrument Recorder Pulse	Instrument Recorder Rhythm	Instrument Recorder Pitch	Instrument Recorder Pitch
Y4	Instrument Ukulele Pulse	Instrument Ukulele Rhythm	Instrument Ukulele Rhythm	Instrument Ukulele Pitch	Voice	20th Century Music
Y5	20th Century Music	Technology, Structure and Form	Instrument Turntables Pulse Rhythm	Instrument Turntables Pulse Rhythm	Pitch	Voice
Y6	Instrument Beatboxing Pulse Rhythm	Instrument Beatboxing Pulse Rhythm	20th Century Music	Pitch	Voice	Voice Y6 Performance

Music is taught for 40 minutes per week by class teachers, other than the Year 4 ukulele lessons which are taught by a musician from Leicestershire Music Hub.

Additional Needs

All pupils are supported to develop and succeed musically. We encourage full participation in music lessons. Where adaptations are required for pupils with additional needs, we ensure these are as inclusive as possible.

Assessment

Formative assessment is a part of every music lesson. Pupils are encouraged to self-assess and peer-assess work 'live' and in the moment, or by watching video recordings of themselves perform. After reflection and additional teaching input, they then have the opportunity to make amendments to their final pieces. Summative assessments and evidence of learning in music is collated at the end of each unit by our Music lead.

Part B: Co-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 OJS, music is valued highly. In 2023 our PA generously provided hundreds of pounds to buy new instruments, to be used in class music lessons. Our school expansion, completed in early 2024 now provides us with a studio which can be used for class music lessons as well as after-school and lunchtime choirs. This purpose-built space and new instruments validate the importance of music in our school.

Peripatetic music teachers offer opportunities for children to learn musical instruments. These lessons happen during the school day and children are excused from class for 20-30mins individual or group sessions with their music teacher, on site. These lessons are organised through a contract with parents and paid for by parents. Our current provision includes:

- Piano
- Drums
- Flute
- Oboe
- Recorder
- Descant recorder
- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Baritone
- Trumpet

We organise a Peripatetic Musical Event at least once in the school year, this year in Spring Term. This is a time for parents of all peripatetic students to get together and enjoy a showcase of their children's learning. We keep these events varied and have had them café style in the school hall and a more formal concert performance event in the local church, St Mary's.

Children who have instrument tuition in/out of school time are invited to perform at singing assemblies.

OJS have two successful choirs, a Year 3 and 4 choir and a Year 5 and 6 choir. These choirs rehearse after school and are free of charge, welcoming anyone who wishes to join. These choirs are popular and often have a waiting list.

The Year 5 and 6 choir rehearse for the Young Voices concert held in January each year. They travel to Birmingham and sing with around 5,000 children from schools across the Midlands. This is a hugely popular and successful event that OJS students

have been a part of for many years. The Year 5 and 6 choir also perform at the local Salvation Army Centre during the Festive season.

The Year 3 and 4 choir perform at our Christmas celebration; the nativity plays in our local church, St Mary's. These enthusiastic children also perform at Overdale Infant School (OIS) as well as at the Salvation Army during the Festive season and a local Care Home each term.

Our Music Lead works closely with the DoM at St James the Greater Church in Leicester, who provides the choir with professional training and the opportunity to perform with other schools in St James' professional venue.

In 2024 we have applied, through Leicestershire Music Hub to sing with other Leicestershire schools at De Montfort Hall in the Choral Spectacular in March and the Gabrieli Roar concert in June. We continue to search each year for community events in which our choir can perform.

Both choirs are showcased in our singing assemblies at pivotal points throughout the year.

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.

Children

At OJS, musical learning and performance continues through our singing assemblies and through the listening activities our pupils engage in within assembly times. All children attend singing assembly once per week for 30 minutes. Singing assemblies are led by our Music lead. OJS is a singing school and all children benefit from and look forward to singing together. Singing is known to elevate mood, enhance energy levels, improve concentration and memory and build confidence - amongst many other attributes.

In addition to performing in whole school singing assembly, Year 3 have an end of term recorder performance for parents and Year 4 have an end of term ukulele performance for parents.

For those who play instruments or sing in a choir, performances take place in school and/or within the local community throughout the year, as detailed above.

As well as opportunities to perform, it is also crucial to provide live performances for children to experience as audience members. These opportunities are provided in a variety of ways including:

- Staff and parents performing in singing assemblies throughout the year, to entertain and encourage our children

- Yearly interactive performances from the Leicestershire Music Hub 'LeicsPlay' rock band. This is available free of charge for all children
- Developing professional partnerships with Leicester Grammar School, which saw their Sinfonietta Orchestra play at OJS for the whole school in 2023. We hope to welcome them as a concurring yearly event
- Ex-pupils who have made a career for themselves in music coming to perform for our children. Our Music lead continuously seeks opportunities such as this for live performances to enthuse our students
- A performance troupe from Trinity Church in Leicester visiting OJS twice yearly, at Easter and Christmas to perform interactive musical shows. This is available free of charge for the school

Staff

Valuable links within our Trust enable our Music lead to be a part of the OAK music group and meet regularly with music leads from other schools in the Trust to share best practice. This group are in the early stages of organising a 'Big Sing' across all the OAK schools for later in the school year.

Our local music hub, Leicestershire Music provide our staff with yearly music CPD. This enthuses and encourages teachers to embed the music curriculum with confidence, through providing high quality CPD from music professionals.

Our Music lead attends network meetings and training through the Leicestershire Music hub which promotes interaction between music leads across all schools in Leicestershire. This allows a sharing of high-quality music provision and resources to be available at OJS.

Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young. (Aristotle)

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind and life to everything... Without music, life would be an error. (Plato)

In the future

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

With the introduction of iPads for every child this academic year, future plans for music should include specific Music Technology lessons, available at every year group level.

Opportunities for instrument ensembles/school band.

Develop manageable and meaningful assessment systems for class teachers to track key musical skills and opportunities.

Continue to source, considering diversity, more live performances available for children to watch in and out of school.

Ensure class assemblies capture an element of music within them, to allow all children to take part in a live performance at least once a year.

Further information

The Dept for Education publish a guide for parents and young people on how to get involved in music in and out of school: [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people)

Our local music hub is Leicestershire Music: [Leicestershire Music - Leicestershire Music \(leicestershiremusichub.org\)](https://leicestershiremusichub.org) and they provide opportunities for children of all ages to play instruments and sing in private lessons and in ensembles, choirs and orchestras.

OAK Trust Music leads meet at least twice yearly to build music links across the Trust