

Music Development Plan: Forest Lodge Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jack Butler/Ruth Martin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Claire Caldwell (HT) / Vinod Jagatia (SLT)
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Peripatetic Teaching Staff (WCET – Steel Pans) Link Learning (Instrumental lessons)

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.

Music is a unique way of communicating that can inspire and motivate children. It is a vehicle for personal expression that plays an important part in their personal development. Music reflects the culture and society we live in and so the teaching and learning of music enables children to better understand the world. At Forest Lodge Academy, 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. Lessons are engaging, active and practical, with visual aids and practical equipment to ensure inclusivity. We also aim to close the gap between groups such as disadvantaged / SEND pupils, by targeting children who are pupil premium to take up instrumental lessons. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen to and appreciate different forms of music. Children develop descriptive skills in

music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch, making music together, understanding musical notation and composing pieces.

Our objectives are skill based and show progression within the following areas:

- Voice (including singing and performance)
- Rhythm (including pulse)
- Pitch (including control and notation)
- Composition (including structure, form and notation)
- Listening (including evaluating)
- Music Technology (including controlling and changing sounds)

At Forest Lodge Academy, teachers have access to the LSMS scheme of work and are encouraged to use this throughout the year, particularly on our termly Music days. We ensure that music is taught to a high standard and teachers are frequently given guidance on how to achieve this through staff meetings and updates throughout the academic year. Teachers plan lessons for their class using our progression of knowledge and skills document. Teachers use this document to plan their music lessons and; when possible, link this learning to their current topic for the half term.

The impact of our music curriculum at Forest Lodge Academy is monitored in the following ways:

- Learning walks in the form of observations
- Curriculum and action plan reviews
- Data analysis of year group cohorts
- Evidence trawls and work scrutiny
- Pupil questionnaires
- Staff questionnaires
- Self-audits for provision

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.

- Year 2 Choir takes place during the Autumn term.
- EYFS/KS1 Music Club takes place for 6 weeks during the school year.
- Years 4, 5 & 6 take part in steel pans lessons.
- KS1 & KS2 pupils can take part in guitar lessons.

- KS1 & KS2 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in drum and keyboard lessons.
- Early Years pupils have opportunities to explore different forms of music and sound and make music within their continuous provision as well as daily singing which takes place.

Children have had the opportunities to achieve grades in some string instruments such as violin, viola and cello over the years, which has prepared them extremely well to start secondary school and continue with this love of music. This could be expanded in the future to include our current instrumental lessons such as guitars, drums and keyboard. We also encourage this love of music to transfer when pupils transition to secondary school and ensure that information is passed on accordingly highlighting talented pupils in this area and citing their skill development.

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.

- Singing in whole school assemblies (KS1 singing is led by KS1 staff and KS2 singing is led by a music leader).
- Music often features daily in all classrooms for a variety of purposes – early years especially throughout their day.
- Years 1-6 go out of school in year groups and attend a pantomime in the Autumn term where they experience a musical show with songs in a theatre setting that many of the children already know so they can sing along and clap to the music. Actors spend the majority of the show encouraging children to join in, sing, clap and dance to music.
- Early Years pupils have a visiting pantomime on school site related to theme they are studying or time of the year. This encourages vocal participation.
- Music mornings are held every term where children perform what they have been learning to their parents, this is for all instrumental tuition as well as singing.
- Steel Pans perform at the Christmas Fair and other special occasions throughout the year, to experience what it is like to perform at an event/festival developing their confidence.
- Year 2 Choir perform at events in December to experience what it is like to perform as a group, work as a team and develop their confidence.
- KS1 & KS2 perform songs in their year group assemblies throughout the year.
- EYFS perform songs in their Christmas Nativity production to parents in December and perform and sing during curriculum open events.
- Year 6 perform songs in their production to parents in June/July.

- Music is also embedded throughout the school day throughout the curriculum, when working to create a calm atmosphere setting and also cross-curricular for example varieties of music in RE, Geography and History.

In the future

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

Forest Lodge Academy Actions:

- To attend Young Voices with the school choir this academic year.
- To include careers in Music in the planning of music lessons.
- To provide ongoing CPD to all staff to embed good practice and develop the teaching of music (focusing on listening and evaluating).
- To continue the KS2 Choir to rehearse for Young Voices.
- To take part in a collaborative singing performance with local schools.

Further information (optional)

Forest Lodge Academy works closely with other schools in our development group to share good practise and receive ongoing training in the way of continual professional development. Music Leaders at Forest Lodge Academy will continue to lead these meetings to share good practise.

We also work closely with the Leicestershire Music Hub service, developing national and regional initiatives to ensure our curriculum adheres to the government's National Plan for Music in schools (2022).