High Ongar Primary

Music development plan 2026/27



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Summary

At High Ongar Primary School, we want to enrich pupils' school experience through music lessons and extra-curricular activities, supporting them to develop a love of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need, to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. We aim to introduce children to music from all around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Our music curriculum will also develop children's transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, presentation and performance skills. All of these skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Hampshire
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Hampshire
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for Schools

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.

Curriculum music

We follow the Kapow Primary Music Scheme in which the progressive units of work weave the individual strands of performing, listening, composing, the history of music and the inter-related dimensions of music to create engaging and enriching learning experiences. Our music lessons are scheduled weekly for all classes in key stage 1 and 2.

Within this curriculum pupils are taught how to sing fluently and expressively and play tuned and untuned instruments accurately and with control. They learn how to recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music- pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, structure, texture and dynamics and use these in their own improvisations and compositions. They will develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and learn how music can be written down.

Alongside, our upper KS2 pupils are taught the Ukulele from a specialised peripatetic teacher from Essex Music Education Hub. We also include Recorder lessons for lower KS2 taught by teachers with specialist support from our Music Lead.

Extra-Curricular music

We also offer extra curriculum instrumental lessons with visiting peripatetic teachers that includes piano, keyboard, recorder, flute and clarinet. We provide a practice space for pupils to use at break times, with an available keyboard and woodwind instruments for between lessons. We have different schemes in place to facilitate learning an instrument for PPG with lesson funding, or loaning instruments. Our instrumentalists perform regularly in assemblies and at events in the local church with a yearly concert to parents/carers. Our vocal ensemble meets once a week and has the opportunity to sing in assemblies, community events and at the local church for special assemblies and events.

We promote our free vocal ensemble for those in KS1 and KS2 and regularly promote the opportunity to learn an instrument by inviting peripatetic teachers into school to show different instruments and perform on them.

Once a year the whole school takes part in a specialised music day, through our links with Essex Music Education Hub. With a specialist tutor, all have the opportunity to learn new skills, including African drumming, Samba drumming.

We are building links with the local music community and welcome them to perform live at school and participate in workshops with them. Our plans are to widen our musical connections with other organisations and offer our children a broader range of live music experiences.

Musical experiences

At HOPS we engage all in further musical experiences throughout the year.

We follow a Music of the week programme, which is promoted in the daily assembly and listened to within classes to ensure children are accessing high-quality music across genres. Children are encouraged to learn names of composers and to identify instruments that they can hear.

We have a Weekly, whole school singing assembly using a range of songs from different eras, with opportunities to sing in rounds and groups. The assembly also embeds key musical vocabulary.

We have regular class assemblies, where all children are involved and can showcase their learning of the wider curriculum- which incorporates singing and their instrumental skills performing as a class group. This is performed to the whole school and parents.

Our harvest assembly and celebrations at the church incorporate songs from all year groups that all learn and perform to an audience.

In the future

We aim to provide further opportunities for the school vocal ensemble to perform in our community and beyond and provide opportunities for all pupils to have termly school performances.

To plan an opportunity for pupils to enjoy a live performance at least once a year.

To encourage more children to learn an instrument and provide opportunities to loan instruments for them to try.

To create a school band or ensemble for those learning instruments within school and out of school.

