

Music development plan summary: Marnel Infant School

Overview

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

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

At Marnel Infant School we are committed to delivering a curriculum which excites and engages pupils in their learning. The Music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and is successfully designed, adapted or developed to be ambitious and meet the needs of all pupils. All pupils will work through the same skills progression according to their developmental level. Most pupils follow the same curriculum except for in our SEND provision where the children follow a bespoke curriculum and therefore will acquire slightly different knowledge. In our school we have identified that there is a language deficit for our children and because of this we have been developing our Cultural Capital offer in order to enhance the children's learning in this area. We have increasingly higher numbers of children entering our school with English as an additional language as well as native English-speaking children with a wide range of expressive and receptive language needs. We recognise the need to start the teaching of vocabulary from the moment children join us. As part of this we use 'Deefur' Language* as a vehicle to teach this to the children. We have language we revisit and new language that is introduced for each subject. We are currently in the process of ensuring we have selected different tiers of language across all subjects and year groups to continually ensure that we are moving the children's learning on at an appropriate pace.

Within the Early Years Curriculum, Music forms a part of the Expressive Art and Design area of learning. In Reception, we ensure the children are taught the skills and knowledge to prepare them for the next phase in their learning journey.

Our intent for pupils is to encourage an appreciation for the arts. We ensure that all our lessons allow the children to be exposed to and explore musical terminology, musical styles and popular culture in a range of historical periods. We also ensure that the children understand what it means to be a musician and with music lessons involving exposure to musical vocabulary and a focus on teaching musical skills.

We ensure that pupils are exposed to a rich and varied Music curriculum which helps them to develop emotionally, socially spiritually and culturally. We endeavour to create engaging and captivating musical experiences through inviting visitors to the school to perform or holding workshops for all the children to participate in. At Marnel Infant School children are given the opportunity to further explore the music curriculum through themed weeks such as Arts Week. This allows skills the children have been taught during Music lessons to be applied into a wider context.

Our children are encouraged to express themselves creatively through formal lessons or during discovery time where they have access to instruments in the outdoor areas. This is carried across into our Forest School sessions where children use their creativity to embrace sound, tempo and pitch using natural materials. Our Music curriculum draws upon our understanding of how children learn best in line with our teaching and learning policy by providing “opportunities to practise newly learnt skills by revising, rehearsing and revisiting”. Each skill and area of the curriculum is taught and then revisited and built upon the following year. This encourages our pupils to develop a love of music and allows them to further develop their skills throughout their time here. For example, ‘playing tuned and un-tuned instruments musically’ is introduced in Year A via the Coasts topic with a focus on pitch. This is then revisited the following year in the Titanic topic which allows the children’s prior knowledge and skills to be built upon. It also allows their confidence as a musician and love of music to grow.

With regards to teaching hours’ music is taught weekly through lessons in class, whole school singing and further music opportunities planned into our Forest School sessions. In classrooms, children listen to a wide range of music daily across different genres and time periods.

Overall, we believe strongly that children should be given an opportunity to explore and develop an appreciation for the arts. We strive to provide our children with a range of opportunities to explore and enjoy music. Our hope is that developing this appreciation creates a cultural capital that follows them throughout their life-long learning journey.

* Deefur is our school therapy dog. She is used to introduce new and imbedded vocabulary throughout the curriculum.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

At Marnel Infant School we ensure to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities for pupils to sing and play music outside of lesson time.

Each half term there is a range of clubs offered by the school which are all free of charge. These include singing club, boom whacker club, recorder club, ukulele club, choir and music club. In these clubs' children are able to build upon what they have learnt in class but also have a freedom to explore the instruments and create their own compositions.

Part C: Musical experiences

At Marnel Infant School, we ensure there is a wide range of musical experiences available for children throughout their time at the school. During each term, the children take part in music lessons, whole school singing assembly, singing during Forest School, listening to a wide range of music (examples of this are listed in the model music curriculum).

Every year we hold a whole school nativity where all children partake in singing the songs, Year 2 also form a choir and also sing at these performances. All children are given an opportunity to watch another classes activity and be the audience too.

We also hold a Year 2 leavers assembly at the end of the year, the Year 2 children work hard throughout the summer term to choose, learn and rehearse songs that they feel reflect their experience at school. They then perform this to their parents.

We also ensure to bring in a wide range of visitors and hold workshops for children to take part in every year. For example, workshops during Arts Week and special visitors such as World Music, who we have in every other year to hold a steel drum workshop that all children are able to take part in.

We also ensure to communicate effectively with the Junior School and have previously had their choir come in and perform to our children.

In the future

In the future we plan to:

- Continue to run free of charge music and singing clubs.
- Ensure that music is being taught effectively across the school, including whole school singing assemblies and collective singing during Forest School sessions
- Ensure opportunities to enjoy a live performance within the curriculum planning cycles.