Music development plan summary: Elmwood Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Chris Marston
Name of local music hub	Croydon Music and Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

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.

Following the National Curriculum for music, we aim for our curriculum to enable all pupils to:

- 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 to use their voices, to 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.

Music learning is implemented through a tailored curriculum, designed by our specialist music teacher with some use of units and resources from the 'Sing Up' Scheme of work. A range of genres of music are covered – some that are chosen to reflect some of the cultures, languages and heritages represented by our school community, and others that are chosen to broaden children's understanding of music genres and history across the world.

Each year group's lessons build on the learning from prior years ensuring a depth of understanding and progression of skills across the following musical strands of learning:

- **Listening and understanding** (inc. aural skills, knowledge of musical history and culture and knowledge of the interrelated dimensions of music
- **Performing** (inc. developing singing and instrumental skills, and performing live music using musical technology)
- **Notation** (inc. graphic notation, note names, chord symbols, tablature and standard western stave notation
- **Creating** (inc. improvising, composing, and creating, recording and manipulating sounds using music technology)

Every class at Elmwood receives a 45 minute weekly lesson with the musical specialist as well as a weekly 20-30 minute singing assembly.

In music lessons, children are given the opportunities to learn and make progression in the strands above, with a strong focus on opportunities to make and respond to music. All year groups use a range of tuned (e.g. glockenspiels) and un-tuned (e.g. drums, tambourines, etc.) classroom percussion instruments in their lessons music lessons

Above and beyond the Model Music Curriculum recommendation that classes in Year 3 or 4 have a whole-class instrumental programme for a minimum of a term, children at Elmwood will have the opportunity to develop their procedural knowledge and performing skills in the following instruments:

- Year 3: Ocarinas (for 2 terms)
- Year 4: Ukuleles and Recorders (for 1.5 terms on each instrument)
- Year 5 and 6: Steel Pan (for one term)

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.

Outside of lesson time, children have the following ensembles that they can be a part of:

- Year 3 and 4 choir (open to all pupils without auditions)
- Year 5 and 6 choir (open to all pupils in those year groups without audition)
- Year 5 and 6 steel pan band (for up to 30 children who audition for their space)

These are all offered by the music specialist teacher without any charge for participation.

Children are signposted towards the different types of instrumental tuition offered by Croydon Music and Arts (CMA) but lessons are not currently available at the school as there is not enough take-up for instrumental tutors to come in.

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.

Performing:

- All school ensembles (choirs and steel pans) perform in at least 2-3 in-school events each year (e.g. Christmas Concert, Summer Concert, Summer Fair).
- The Year 5 and 6 Choir also have the opportunity to sing as part of a larger "massed choir" at Fairfield Halls with CSMA (every year) and at The O2 with Young Voices (every other year).
- Classes sometimes request to share their musical learning with others in the school, for example sharing a song or piece they have learned as part of the weekly singing assembly.
- Year 3 pupils (whole year group) put on a musical play each Christmas.
- Year 6 pupils (whole year group) put on a musical play each summer.

Watching live performances:

- The whole of Year 6 go on a trip to London each summer, including seeing a live performance of a West End Musical

In the future

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

The National plan for music education states that the 7 features of high-quality music provision are:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

This year, we aim to:

- Introduce a beginner keyboard unit for Year 6
- Increase links with CMA support and instrumental staff
- encourage other school staff to possibly run/help with music clubs so we can increase the range of opportunities.
- look at ways to encourage children to do their own independent/group music making outside of lessons and staff-run clubs, e.g. a music hangout space.
- to continue links with Trinity School to provide live music demonstrations to our pupils

Further information (optional)

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.

Our local music hub is Croydon Music and Arts who have their own “local plan for music education”. Their website details the different workshops, lessons, groups and ensembles that they run at their centre, in schools and in other Croydon venues, in music and in other performance and visual arts