

Music development plan summary: John Hampden School Wendover

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Suzy Mannering
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Steph Parkinson
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

Part A: Curriculum music

The John Hampden School has now completed its first full year of teaching music using the Sparkyard scheme of work. This scheme follows the national curriculum and structures sets of lessons from Reception to Year 6. Each term is organised into progressive steps so as the children move up the school, they are continually building on prior knowledge, skills and vocabulary. These lessons, which are taught by a music specialist who is also a vocal coach, provide the children with the opportunity to learn a song with actions and receive support in how to use the voice with good technique, projection and posture. Performance skills are also emphasised and the children gain the confidence to engage with the audience when performing. Lessons cover an understanding of pulse, pitch, dynamics, articulation, timbre and different rhythmic patterns through playing tuned and untuned percussion instruments, which the children use to develop a range of practical musicianship skills. Each term the children have the opportunity to follow a graphic score and use a range of symbols to create their own musical sequences.

Reception children have a 30 minute direct music lesson every week and in addition to this, music is embedded throughout the rest of the curriculum through nursery rhymes and counting songs. Children in KS1 have a 45 minute direct music lesson every week and in addition to this all KS1 children attend a 15 minute singing assembly every week.

All children across the school will also rehearse throughout the week with their class teacher for any performances they are working towards, such as Harvest Festival and the Christmas Nativity.

To have the opportunity to collaborate with other music coordinators, I attend the annual music conferences with a view to share resources, share teaching tips and attend seminars for the development of music in John Hampden School.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We provide children at John Hampden School with the opportunity to join a free musical theatre group which is currently open to year 2 children. All year 2 children will get a letter and parents/carers can complete the slip and return it to the office. From the submissions, 30 places are available. Our weekly 30-minute sessions provide an opportunity to teach a variety of songs which are staged and incorporate moves and some dance. There are small group and solo opportunities within each song for the more confident children however, this group provides the perfect platform for any child to take part, no matter their confidence or ability. This group performs at the annual May Fair and at the end of the school year for the whole school.

In addition to the Musical Theatre Club, we offer group tuition from Rock Steady. Parents can book their child in on line and pay for the sessions in a month by month basis. Rock Steady also provide one free place for a pupil premium child. This exciting initiative provides children with the opportunity to be in their own band and learn to play an instrument of their choice from drums, keyboard, electric guitar and voice. They perform once a term in front of the whole school and their parents.

KS1 children have a 15-minute singing assembly each week where they learn a variety of songs for different occasions such as Harvest, Christmas and May Fair. Instruments are incorporated and links to the music lessons are made to consolidate their learning. An example is playing percussion instruments to the beat.

Part C: Musical Events

Each week KS1 takes part in a 15-minute singing assembly where they have the opportunity to listen to different genres of music as they enter and leave the hall. During the assembly the children learn a wide variety of songs which have links to our school values, PSHE and seasonal change. Links are made with the song choices and sometimes small groups are asked to use instruments to create a percussive accompaniment. This enriches their musical performances, concerts and shows at the school.

The children are given opportunities to watch visiting musicians from Buckinghamshire Music Trust who give live performances, playing a wide range of genres on a variety of instruments. They are able to show the difference in mood making by playing some very sad and then joyful music.

Each term the whole school is invited to watch a concert from the Rock Steady and the children who take part in weekly lessons.

We have school performances for Harvest, Christmas, May Day and an additional performance by the musical theatre club at the May Fair.

The Musical Theatre club also visit St Mary's Church and give a Christmas performance.

In the future

To develop music further, I am continuing to looking for opportunities for FS and KS1 with our local music hub. This will allow our school to be part of any upcoming performance events and also provide training opportunities which will enable me to continue to strive for excellence in music across the school.

In the 2025-2026 academic year I am introducing a recorder club for KS1 children in addition to the musical theatre club that currently runs. I would like to develop my musical theatre club by having a performance at the end of the summer term.

The school already has performances in the autumn and spring terms so I would like to have a summer talent show where children can choose to audition and then perform in front of the whole school.

In addition to our yearly performance at the church, I would like to reach out further to the local community and perform in nursing homes.

I am looking into the possibility for year 2 children to attend a live musical performance, such as a performance at The Aylesbury Waterside Theatre. This enrichment would ensure that all children are gaining an equal opportunity to have exposure to music and the arts.