

Music development plan summary: John Hampden School Wendover

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Suzy Mannering
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jo Spencer
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

In October 2023, the John Hampden School signed up to the Sparkyard scheme of work for the teaching of music across the school. 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 posture, technique and projection. Performance skills are also emphasised and the children gain the confidence to engage with the audience when performing. Lessons also include playing untuned percussion instruments, which the children use to develop a range of performance skills including following musical instructions, varying dynamics and timbre, following a graphic score and creating 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.

Year 1 children have a 45 minute direct music lesson every week and year 2 have 45 minutes 2 out of 3 weeks as their lessons are on a rotation. In addition to this all KS1 children attend a 15 minute singing assembly every week.

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

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 are linked to our school values, PSHE and seasons. 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 who give live performances, playing a wide range of genres on the violin. 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.

In the future

To develop music further, I am looking to engage fully 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.

I am also looking to introduce 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 each 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.

I would like to make connections with other infant and junior schools through the annual music conferences with a view to share resources and teaching tips. This would enable me to have a term of African drumming lessons.

I am currently in the process of meeting with the Vicar of Wendover and Halton to discuss our school singing, in the first instance, at Christmas time in the local church.

I would also like to look into the possibility for year 2 children to attend a live musical performance. This enrichment would ensure that all children are gaining an equal opportunity to have exposure to music and the arts.