



PensMeadowSchool

Living, Growing, Learning

Music Development Plan

JUNE 2024

NEXT REVIEW DATE: JUNE 2025

Staff Responsible: Assistant Headteacher Core Curriculum and Staff Development

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Music is a cornerstone of the broad and balanced education that every child should receive. It touches hearts and minds, it celebrates and challenges, and it connects us and moves us.

The power of Music to change lives, A National Plan for Music Education 2022

Music education for pupils with SEND must be a long-term provision, sustained, rehearsed and nurtured carefully through effective personal interaction and collaboration, trust and time.

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	Sept 2024 – 2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Tania Timmins (AHT) Esther Richmond (AHT) From Sept 2024
Name of the school music culture lead	Marjolein Wolverson
Name of local music hub	Black Country Music Hub

At Pens Meadow, we aim to continuously enhance our music curriculum and ensure that our pupils are given quality experiences and opportunities to engage in a range of music genres appropriate to their development levels.

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 Pens Meadow we believe that music is a vital part of our curriculum and music and songs are embedded throughout the school day as cues for the timetable and to enhance learning in lessons.

We have a clear Music Intent published on our website alongside the long-term curriculum plan for music which gives pupils opportunities to

- Learn to sing and perform songs at an appropriate development level.
- Develop key knowledge and skills for music concepts
- Listen to a range of music from different genres and develop their listening and appraisal skills

Curriculum

Our holistic pathway is enhanced by Music for the Brain – Resources from the Children’s trust and is developed from the Sounds of Intent.

Our sensory and semi-formal music curriculum is informed by the Model music Curriculum (March 2021), and enhanced by Charanga, both the mainstream and SEND programmes as appropriate to the learning. Units are also added from BBC Ten Pieces and BBC Sounds.

Early Development Pathway

A strong foundation of music in the early years is vital for all children, but particularly for disadvantaged children or children with SEND.

Music is taught within Expressive Arts and Design and is integral within our daily routines. Pupils are taught to sing a range of identified nursery rhymes whilst exploring instruments in a developmentally appropriate way as identified on the curriculum plan as well as listening to a range of music and songs related to the half-termly theme. Pupils on our Early Development Pathway are taught music by our peripatetic music teacher, Del for half an hour on a Friday for two half terms on a rolling programme.

Holistic Pathway

There are a range of assistive technologies that provide opportunities for children with SEND. A number of free-to-use applications are available on touch screen and tablet devices that allow pupils to express themselves musically and to control sounds. *A National Plan for Music Education 2022*

Pupils on the holistic pathway at Ridge Hill site have a half hour weekly timetabled music lesson on a Friday morning with our peripatetic music teaching teacher, Del. Music is then built into other lessons across the week to ensure that they have daily input of music awareness and cause and effect through pre-English, pre-maths and other curriculum areas.

At our Pensnett site, our holistic pathway pupils have a timetabled 90-minute lesson each week where they investigate different aspects of music appropriate to their development levels. They also have aspects of music built into their other pre-curriculum subjects.

All pupils on the holistic pathway have an opportunity to play a range of tuned and non-tuned instruments within their lessons. They are encouraged to vocalise wherever possible and join in with music making according to their development levels.

Sensory and Semi-formal Pathways

Lower, Middle and Upper phase

Music should be embedded in every primary school. Singing should be the golden thread through these years, with a clear commitment to quality teaching and opportunities for progression for all children from the start of their school education. *A National Plan for Music Education 2022*

The pupils working within these phases have music lessons for 45 minutes every week. These lessons have been carefully sequenced to build upon previous skills and meet pupil's individual development levels. This is supported by our Pens Meadow music progression document which enables pupils to meet their identified next steps whilst learning the same content as their peers. Pupils in these phases have one term's worth of teaching by our peripatetic music teacher, Del, on a rolling programme throughout the year. These lessons complement our planned sequence of knowledge and skills development.

In Middle and Upper phase, pupils are taught the knowledge and skills for digital music technology through their computing lessons. This gives the pupils opportunities to make patterns with percussion instruments and digital tools creating different rhythms and tunes. Finally, pupils will share their creations and compare digital and non-digital music.

During their lessons, pupils on the sensory and semi-formal pathway develop singing, playing, and performing skills within their class groups. They use both un-tuned and tuned instruments to develop a basic awareness of pulse, rhythm, volume and pitch. Key songs have been identified on the medium-term planning for the pupils to learn and pupils practise singing these as a group in class. Pupils also have an opportunity to listen to quality music which has been identified to support or contrast with the genre they are studying with to enable them to develop listening skills and an appreciation of a wide range of musical genres.

Key Stage 4 and 5

Pupils in key stage 4-5 continue their musical education through their art and creative studies on Friday afternoons. All pupils have a 45-minute music lesson over two half terms on a rolling programme. These lessons focus on music appreciation and continue to develop key basic knowledge and skills.

Enhancement Links

Our headteacher is a member of the local consultation group for Dudley Performing Arts who lead the Black Country Music Hub. This group meets regularly to look at music enhancement opportunities for all young people.

In 2023 we were invited to become a Music Mark School by Dudley Performing Arts and we continue to work closely with them to develop our music curriculum and experiences for all our pupils.

Listening

Listening to music is fundamental to musical understanding, and so is at the heart of the music curriculum.

Throughout the curriculum identified music has been planned to enhance the pupil's music appreciation across a wide range of genres. This supports the pupil's development of their attention and listening skills as well as developing a preference for music that they enjoy and music to suit different moods and feelings. These are important aspects of preparation for adulthood for all our pupils.

Professional Development

As part of training in school, staff from Dudley performing Arts have provided training for teaching staff. This focused on developing a steady beat and simple rhythms, effective use of Charanga and use of un-tuned instruments.

Further to this our Music lead and AHT for Core curriculum have attended music courses to support the development of the curriculum and extra-curricular music time. This will be disseminated across school.

Part B: Extra curriculum music

Choir

At Ridge Hill Site we have a choir made up of pupil's who have expressed an interest in singing through their pupil voice. During the Autumn term our choir works towards learning Christmas Carols and our chosen school song with Makaton for Dudley Special School Christmas Concert. Following this pupil can select songs that they would like to learn to sing.

At our Pensnett Site our choir runs through the Autumn term to teach pupil's the carols and our selected song with Makaton for the Special School Christmas Concert.

Individual Music Tuition

Further to our class music lessons, Del, our peripatetic music teacher, also teaches guitar to identified pupils within school. Currently we have one pupil working towards a Rockschoool Debut Grade and one other pupil having guitar lessons. In September we have identified 3 pupils who will have music lessons with Del.

Music Culture Lead

From May 2024, we have created the role of a music culture lead to raise the profile of music across school and enhance the experiences our pupil's receive. The role of the music culture lead is to:

- Audit music resources ensuring that there is a range of instruments in good condition to enable all pupils to engage in quality learning opportunities, informing curriculum lead when new resources need to be purchased.
- Ensure that there are a range of appropriate books to support the development of music culture across both sites.
- Further developing music culture through – staff CPD, promotion of community engagement and visits to high quality experiences.
- Ensure music is promoted across the school through display, termly school performances, and development of lunchtime choir and instrumental groups.
- Develop opportunities for music within the community for example, engaging in community performances, linking with other schools, and giving pupils the opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year.
- Lead by example through up-to-date research and innovative ideas to continue to support and develop staff with their musicianship.
- Set out an academic calendar of planned musical experiences including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.
- Liaise with the Black Country Music Hub to enhance our music experiences for all pupils.

Part C: Musical experiences

2022 - 2023

Trip to the Pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre	This is an annual event for all pupils who are able to access the performance for pupils with SEND.
Special School Christmas Concert	We join with the other special schools in Dudley to perform a selection of Christmas carols and our chosen school performance piece. This is at Dudley Town Hall and the audience includes special guests, parents, and Dudley Mayor. All pupils are invited to this event.
Opera Tutti	Our PMLD pupils on our Ridge Hill site enjoyed a performance by the Welsh National Opera who came into school for the performance.
Special School at Resonance	Two groups of pupils attended the special school's music morning. One group accessed the semi-formal pathway music and a PMLD group accessed the sensory experience using resonance boards and various props to enhance the sensory experience.
Singing Hands	Singing Hands visited both sites to teach the pupils songs with Makaton signing and give them an opportunity to join in with their music. All pupils were involved in these sessions.

2023 - 2024

Trip to the Pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre	This is an annual event for all pupils who are able to access the performance for pupils with SEND.
Special School Christmas Concert	We join with the other special schools in Dudley to perform a selection of Christmas carols and our chosen school performance piece. This is at Dudley Town Hall and the audience includes special guests, parents, and Dudley Mayor. All pupils are invited to this event.
Christmas sing along with parents at RHS	Parents were invited into our Ridge Hill site for two afternoons of carol singing and minced pies. Some of the students from Pensnett also joined in.
Special Schools at Symphony Hall	Some of our pupils performed at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham as part of the Special Schools orchestra. They played their guitars. This was a selected group of pupils.
Opera Tutti	A selected group of students on the PMLD and sensory learning pathways went to Brierley Hill Civic Hall for the Opera Tutti performance of opera and classical music with puppets and sensory experiences.

Special Schools at Resonance	Two groups of pupils are attending the special school's music morning in July. The first group will access the semi-formal pathway music and the second group will experience the PMLD sensory experience using resonance boards and various props to enhance the sensory experience.
Singing Hands	Singing Hands are visiting both sites to teach the pupils songs with Makaton signing and give them an opportunity to join in with their music. This will be accessible for all pupils

In the future

Our next steps to develop music further are Pens meadow are:

Creation of a school song for assemblies	School council to work with Del to create a school song with verses linked to 'Living, growing, learning.'
Set up choir/ instrumental orchestra at Pensnett Site	Create a choir and instrumental orchestra at Pensnett site during lunchtimes as clubs.
Performances	Increase the number of performances that pupils take part in for example during assemblies, for peers or for parents.
Links with other schools	Link with schools e.g. Crestwood so that pupils can come to play for our pupil's or support performances.
Home learning	Increase the number of challenges on home learning challenges which include music related opportunities
Staff knowledge	Increase staff knowledge through a programme of CPD.
Adaptive instruments	Increase the use of adaptive instruments to support PMLD pupils to make their own music.

