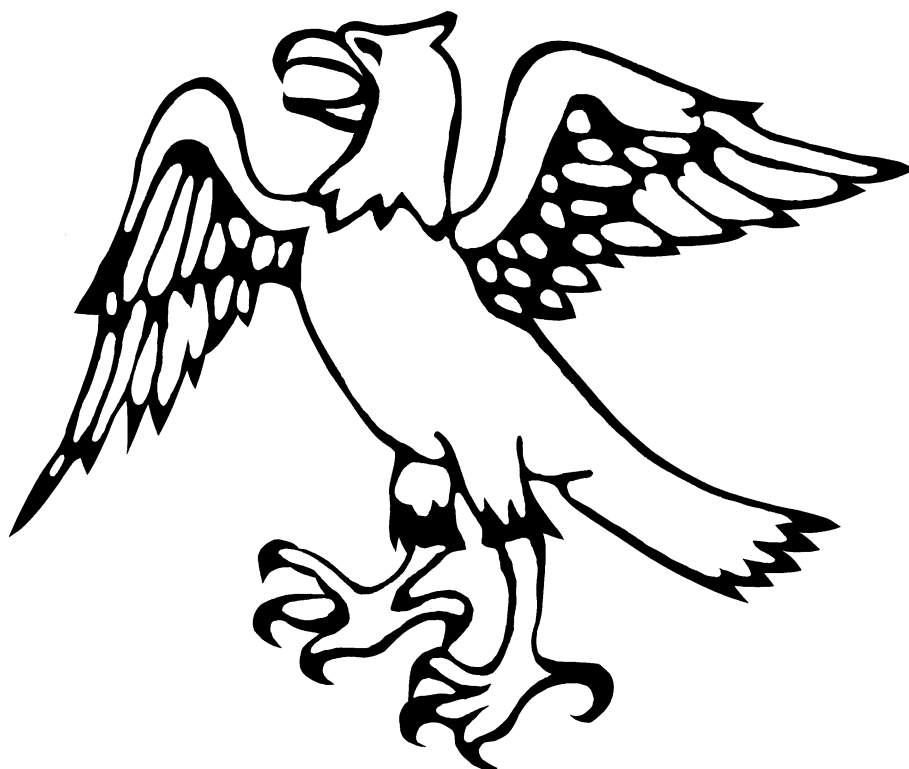


Music development plan summary 2025/2026: Fairfields Primary School and Nursery



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 / 2026
Date this summary was published	Summer 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Tothill
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Mid Herts Music Centre
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	1 st Note Education

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

Fairfields Primary School [Music Curriculum](#) is published online.

Our music curriculum develops the children's appreciation of music from around the world, as the children listen to works from a wide variety of composers, ensembles, bands and music groups. We play music from Albinoni to Adele, and everything in between! Class music lessons are up to 45 minutes per week.

We play music in our whole-school and class assemblies (as well as our music lessons of course!). All assemblies begin with a piece of music, usually classical. We briefly discuss its period, the composer, performer/s, instrumentation and other aspects of the music.

There are so many ways to describe the music we play to the children, but we will use words such as warm, gentle, harsh, brassy, rich, deep, shrill, solemn, joyous and many more, as well as simply describing the music as loud or soft.

Science has proven that, when we listen to music, our brains release dopamine (a natural mood booster!). Aside from our minds and moods, music also aids in our physical health.

We do like the children to experience live music and so we have taken them to the Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Opera House, The O2 and Wembley Arena and invited ensembles to play in school. The children regularly attend the Hertfordshire Gala concert at the RAH. Having performed there in March 2025, we are hoping to book to perform again in 2027! The performances are always enriching for the children but also fill them with awe, wonder and appreciation for music and all that it can bring in terms of the deep feelings it can stir.

The school choir regularly performs for the local community, for example, in December 2024 we sang carols for the local community in Hoddesdon Town Centre. Not only is a choir a social group in itself, bringing together different year groups, but singing to an audience is a satisfying encounter for everyone concerned. Please listen to the choir performing on our [Music Curriculum Page](#).

Children are able to have instrumental music lessons here at school and these can be subsidised.

Learning a musical instrument has been shown to give many significant benefits to the learner. As well as the dedication it takes to learn music, there are many attributes which a musician develops as a result of learning an instrument.

As Plato said: Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.

Our school music curriculum, for which we use the [Charanga](#) scheme of work, is informed by the model music curriculum.

At Fairfield's we believe that high quality music education will engage and inspire our pupils to develop their love of music and their talent and belief as musicians both within school and beyond.

We hope that their musical experience in school will increase their self-confidence and creativity.

Music lessons will enable children to:

- ☐ perform, listen to and review a wide range of music;
 - ☐ learn to sing and use their voices;
 - ☐ have the opportunity to play a range of musical instruments;
 - ☐ improvise
 - ☐ compose
 - ☐ be introduced to the possibilities created by music technology.
 - ☐ develop their understanding and use of the technical vocabulary used within music.
-

At Fairfield's we value the role music can play in the development of children's artistic and cultural awareness and recognise that singing in particular can be a vehicle for exploring a wider cultural heritage.

In EYFS, children experience music in both adult led and child initiated learning activities. They are able to:

- ☐ explore the sounds of a range of musical instruments;
- ☐ sing nursery rhymes and other well-known songs from a range of cultures;
- ☐ listen to recorded music in different contexts;
- ☐ move in response to music;
- ☐ perform to an audience.

In KS1 and KS2, classroom music lessons are delivered through the use of the Charanga scheme of work which ensures that the interrelated dimensions of music are woven throughout each unit.

Lessons enable children to progressively develop their skills, appreciate a wide variety of music and begin to appraise a range of musical genres. Each unit of work has an on-going musical learning focus and lessons usually follow a specific learning sequence:

- ☐ Listen and Appraise
- ☐ Musical Activities

- (including pulse, rhythm, improvisation, etc.)

- ☐ Singing and Voice
- ☐ Playing instruments
- ☐ Improvisation / Composition
- ☐ Perform and Share

Our music curriculum is enriched through live music making and performance. Pupils in KS2 have the opportunity to learn to play piano, keyboard and guitar in one-to-one or group lessons provided by 1st Note Music. These young musicians are encouraged to perform within their class and in end of term 'concert platforms' to the whole school. In addition, we have a thriving school choir which regularly has opportunities to perform within school, the local community and at Hertfordshire Music Service's Schools' Gala in the Royal Albert Hall.

At Fairfields we value the wider opportunities which participation in the performing arts offers and acknowledge that such experiences promote invaluable aspects of cultural capital. To this end we have a planned sequence of year group performances throughout the year, e.g. Early Years Nativities, Carol Singing in KS1, Y6 end of year production, etc. All children are encouraged to play an active part in these performances both on stage and back stage and learn through experience that everybody has a vital role to play.

All children, regardless of their needs, have full access to our music curriculum. Lessons are adapted appropriately to meet the needs of all pupils and ensure an inclusive curriculum. Some of these adaptations may include: differentiated activities, adult support, mixed ability seating and word banks.

Teachers, Subject Leaders and Senior Leaders have a key part to play in measuring the impact of teaching and learning in and through music at Fairfields.

Teachers make assessments using the progressive criteria outlined in the lesson plans and units in Charanga which reflect how individuals are developing as listeners, creators and performers.

Subject Leaders and Senior Leaders use observations and pupil voice to broaden and consolidate their view of the quality of the music curriculum being taught at Fairfields and its relevance and validity for our learners. This includes a focus on disadvantaged children as well as those who may show a particular aptitude for any aspect of music. In addition they will consider the impact music education is having on our learners' fundamental abilities such as: achievement, self-confidence, interaction with and awareness of others, and self-reflection as well as their understanding of diverse cultures and histories.

Part B: Co-curricular music / Extra-curricular music / Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

Our music curriculum is enriched through live music making and performance. Pupils in KS2 have the opportunity to learn to play piano, keyboard and guitar in one to one or group lessons provided by 1st Note Music. These young musicians are encouraged to perform within their class and in end of term 'concert platforms' to the whole school. In addition, we have a thriving school choir which regularly has opportunities to perform within school, the local community and at Hertfordshire Music Service's Schools' Gala in the Royal Albert Hall.

Outside of lesson time pupils can enrol at the local Music Centre and take grades in all disciplines.

Mid Herts Music Centre offers tuition in the following:

Piano and keyboard

Strings: Violin, Viola, (including Suzuki Method), Cello and Double Bass

Brass: Cornet, Trumpet, Tenor Horn, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Woodwind: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone, Recorder

Guitar: Classical and Electric

Percussion: Drum Kit, Orchestral Percussion and Steel pans

Singing

In addition, it offers numerous ensembles, choirs, wind and brass ensembles, full orchestras, string orchestras and quartets, as well as music for the youngest children with Stringbabies for the under-5s.

Please view their website for all information including lesson and ensemble costs at:
<https://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/music-lessons-in-hertfordshire/music-lessons.aspx>

Part C: Musical experiences, events & performances

Our music curriculum is enriched through live music making and performance. Pupils in KS2 have the opportunity to learn to play piano, keyboard and guitar in one to one or group lessons provided by 1st Note Music. These young musicians are encouraged to perform within their class and in end of term 'concert platforms' to the whole school. In addition, we have a thriving school choir which regularly has opportunities to perform within school, the local community and at Hertfordshire Music Service's Schools' Gala in the Royal Albert Hall.

In the future

Fairfields Primary School plans an exciting year of music ahead with termly school performances and a visit to the Royal Albert Hall planned for early 2027.

Further information

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: <http://www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk> has a local plan for music education in place, which has further useful information.