

Music development plan summary: Hillside First School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Karen Pain
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Dorset Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady

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.

- At Hillside we follow a whole school music curriculum which was developed by the Initio Trust and informed by the Model Music Curriculum provided by the DfE. [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021).

This curriculum maps progress and skills across the school from EYFS to Key Stage 2.

- There are regular timetabled curriculum music lessons in all years plus other provision which totals 1 hour per week for all children. This includes whole class instrumental music, school performances and other musical events.
- In their lessons, children develop their understanding of the components of music, learning how it is structured and the terminology used in the subject.
- As they progress through the school the children enjoy performing and composing their own music.

- The children listen to music from different cultures and eras, learning about the history of music around the world. Children are also introduced to a wider variety of instruments and styles of music from around the world.
- Children have the opportunity to sing within lessons and in assemblies. Children also have the opportunity to learn, play and develop their skills with the glockenspiel as part of weekly music lessons.
- With the support of the Dorset Music Hub Key Stage 2 children also have access to samba drumming and ukulele lessons.
- Our class teachers adapt our curriculum to meet the needs of children with additional needs and/or disabilities, and these bespoke adaptations ensure that music can be enjoyed by all.
- Class teachers record progress using recordings or written notes to assess.

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.

- All children at Hillside are offered the opportunity to play in a band with the support of Rock Steady. Children can learn to play keyboard, drums, guitar, bass and sing using a microphone. This tuition is paid for by parents and offered during school time on a timetabled rota. Children in receipt of pupil premium may receive an annual bursary and matched funding is also available.

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.

- Children sing together every week as part of a singing assembly and celebration assembly.
- There are opportunities during the year for the children to perform to others. Such as the Christmas performances, leavers assemblies and the Rock Band groups perform each term. All performances put on by the school are free for parents and carers to attend.
- The pupils in KS2 also perform to the local community at the local care home at Christmas.

In the future

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

- Timetabled music curriculum lessons of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 2 will continue.
- We are committed to ensuring that all children receive high-quality musical experiences and lessons. Pupils will continue to have opportunities to learn and enjoy music through singing and playing a range of instruments, supported by **Dorset Music Hub, Rock Steady**, and visiting musicians.
- To make music more accessible for all children, including those who communicate through signing, we will begin to include simple sign language (BSL) in some of our songs during singing and celebration assemblies and Christmas performances. This will help every child take part and feel included in our shared musical experiences.
- We also hope to support our teachers by providing training and opportunities to build their confidence and skills in teaching improvisation and composition. This includes learning how to use **YouStudio** on the **Charanga** music platform, which helps children explore and create their own music through the use of technology.