

Music development plan summary: Heathfield Junior 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	Kitty Thomson
Name of local music hub	Richmond Music Trust

Heathfield Junior School prides itself on the quality, breadth, and inclusivity of the music it offers their children. We offer a high-quality music education for all and as such, we meet a high proportion of what is identified within the HM Government's National Plan of Music (NPM): *'The power of music to change lives'*.

Curriculum music

Heathfield Junior School uses a spiral curriculum in KS2 and meets the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) through the adoption of the Charanga on-line Music Scheme. We mix the original music scheme, which includes popular and well-known songs, with their MMC scheme. The PPA teachers deliver music lessons to each class. In line with the Charanga Scheme, children are taught to sing, appraise a wide range of music and read, play, compose and improvise music on glockenspiels and recorders, as well as a variety of unpitched instruments. The children have a chance to compose their own drumbeats, melodies and piece of music using the YUMI programme on Charanga. Each class has the chance to perform one of the songs that they have been learning in music lessons to the rest of the school during a singing assembly. This gives all children the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a performer on a stage in front of a 'live' audience. As well as this, all children participate in a weekly singing assembly. During assemblies, the children listen to a range of music, following the Charanga listening scheme, with a brief overview of the piece given each week by the 'Music Maestros' as part of their pupil leadership role. This further enhances the children's appreciation of a variety of different musical styles, composers and where this music fits on a historical timeline, linking to other areas of the curriculum. Pupils with special educational needs (SEND) are supported in music by implementing our 'Ordinary Available Provision' approach, which includes access to the music room.

Extra-Curricular Music

Pupils at Heathfield have the opportunity to enrol in weekly 'Rocksteady' band sessions led by a music specialist from an outside provider. No prior musical experience is required and the children have a chance to learn the guitar, drums, keyboard or voice. The Rocksteady Bands, made up of children from different year groups, perform every term to their peers and parents. Although there is a fee, free bursary places are offered each year and trial sessions are made available to promote interest across all abilities.

For those who love to sing, we offer a Federation Choir, open to children in Years 2-6. Currently, approximately 50 children attend choir each week. This is led by Heathfield Schools' Partnership's music subject lead as a free after school club. Four pupil leaders ('Music Maestros') are chosen from choir each term to help lead vocal warm-ups in both choir and singing assembly. As well as performing regularly at school events such as the Christmas Church Service and the Summer Fair, the choir participates in the Richmond Music Trust's Primary Singing Festival every year. The children have the chance to attend a regional workshop with other local schools, culminating in a performance on stage at the Rose Theatre in Kingston as a massed vocal ensemble of over 500 voices, accompanied by a live band. This is a real highlight for all involved.

A cross-federation lunchtime recorder club is offered for free to students from Years 2-6, following the online Charanga Recorder Course. The children are taught to properly hold and play the recorder, are exposed to musical notation and learn notes beyond what they would in the classroom. We focus on songs that include new notes to stretch their musical knowledge and develop their listening skills in order to play together as an ensemble. The recorder club performs termly in assembly to the whole school and at our annual Summer Fair.

The choice of repertoire from a variety of cultures and traditions in our extra-curricular music, offers a powerful way to promote diversity. Creating a culture where all music is celebrated and respected and where children feel confident in enjoying, embracing, and sharing the music that is meaningful to them.

Musical experiences

All children at Heathfield take part in weekly singing assemblies. Music is also incorporated into other assemblies such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter services, as well as other festivals throughout the year.

In Year 4, all of the classes take part in an 8-week 'Wider Opportunities' programme to learn guitar, provided by the Richmond Music Trust. This encourages children to try a new instrument that isn't offered in the usual music curriculum. The programme acts as

a taster session, after which children can sign up to continue guitar lessons with the visiting peripatetic teacher if they wish.

Our Year 5 classes attend the London Philharmonic Orchestra's *Bright Sparks* event at the Royal Festival Hall in the summer term. Often this is their first experience of hearing a live orchestra and stepping foot inside a concert hall. The music chosen is engaging for a primary audience and narrated by a presenter, with opportunities for fun and active audience participation.

We have links with the music department at Turing House, who bring their ensembles to perform to our children and reciprocate by inviting us to attend events, such as their Christmas concert.

'Music Maestros' are children that assist the music teachers by modelling warm ups and song parts in choir rehearsals and supporting in the junior school singing assembly. They also take on leadership responsibilities in choir events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs and the Richmond Music Trust Singing Festival. 'Music Maestros' are selected each term from children in the choir in Years 3 to 6. These children have shown their commitment to musical activities within the school and demonstrated their interest in a leadership role through regular attendance and engagement in choir rehearsals and performances.

Children enjoy watching performances from our half-termly class performances and termly recorder club performances, as well as the Rocksteady bands.

In the future

The Heathfield Junior Music lead is planning to:

- Increase opportunities for pupils to experience live music performances e.g. visits from local secondary school bands and ensembles
- Introduce music workshops provided by local secondary schools
- Plan further trips to music venues to experience live performances.

Further information

Richmond Music Trust:

<https://www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk/site/>

Rocksteady:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Charanga:

<https://charanga.com/site/>

