

Manorbrook Primary School



Aiming for Excellence

Music Development Plan Summary 2024-25

1: Curriculum Music

Our music curriculum is based on the Charanga scheme. The units taught to the children are shown in detail in our Music Coverage Document, which can be found in the same section of the website as this summary.

How much time is spent learning and engaging in Music?

All children have a half-hour singing session weekly, called a singing assembly. This gives opportunities to listen, appreciate, follow, accompany, sing in unison and in harmony. The youngest pupils have a separate, suitably adjusted singing assembly. On top of these weekly half-hour sessions, there is weekly class music taught in three blocks over the course of the year, with hourly sessions delivering the planned curriculum. This means that in three terms there is 30 minutes of music per week and in three terms there is 90 minutes of music per week, equating in total to approximately one hour of music per child per week.

Instrumental Lessons

In every year group, one of the three blocks of music delivered per year focuses on whole class instrumental lessons. These can be seen in the coloured coverage grids in the Music Coverage map. Over their time at Manorbrook, this means that a child will experience learning five different instruments:

Glockenspiel (twice), Recorder, Djembe drums, Saxophone/Trumpet, Ukulele.

The teaching is delivered as units of work taken from the Charanga scheme, except for the Trumpet/Saxophone unit which is delivered by a WEMA allocated peripatetic teacher.

Adjustments for SEN pupils

As with other subjects, teaching staff will make necessary reasonable adjustments to allow pupils with SEND to participate as fully as possible in learning. Examples of these adjustments: for a vision-impaired child, notation which the class read from the interactive panel might be projected to an individual iPad or printed in a large format; mixed-ability pairings might be used to support pupils experiencing difficulties with concentration or understanding instructions; ear defenders might be provided if a pupil is at risk of sensory overload; the ROGER amplification system is used so our hearing-impaired students can hear more clearly and participate more fully.

2: Co-Curricular Music

The school offers access to a range of instrumental lessons, through two different providers, namely Red Music and WEMA. These lessons happen during the school day, and necessitate the missing of some class time. Families who qualify for Pupil Premium funding can receive financial support with the cost of lessons. Lessons take place on keyboards and drums that belong to the school so pupils do not need to bring these in. However, they will need access to instruments (or drum pads) at home in order to practice. Children bring guitars, ukuleles and orchestral instruments into school for their lessons. The school holds a small number of spare instruments (mainly guitars) that it can lend to pupils if needed, subject to availability.

The instrumental lessons available are as follows:

Red Music: Parents can pay for lessons for their children in keyboard, guitar, drums and ukulele. They can choose from individual or paired lessons to suit different budgets.

WEMA: Pupils can learn to play a wide range of orchestral instruments, subject to the availability of teachers and sufficient demand for the instrument to make peripatetic teacher visits cost-effective.

There is a school choir, run as an after-school club and open to pupils from Y3 upwards, with admission only limited by numbers. The choir gives pupils numerous opportunities to perform – see the next section.

We host Thornbury Area Youth Music at Manorbrook every Saturday morning, providing a community space for scores of pupils to learn their orchestral instruments with teachers. Some of our pupils attend these sessions.

Every year, our Infant pupils perform a musical nativity play which gives substantial practice in singing. Similarly, the Y6 pupils perform a summer play annual which contains numerous musical numbers and provides opportunities for some solo parts alongside large amounts of unison choral singing.

3: Musical experiences

There are two evening shows each year where instrumentalists can perform. These are 'Carols by Candlelight' in December and 'Summer Serenade' in June or July. Families are invited to attend these performances. Sometimes the peripatetic teachers also attend to support the pupils. The choir also always sings at these events.

Where it can be scheduled, we also arrange for the instrumentalists to have an additional opportunity to perform to their fellow pupils during an assembly close to the date of these performances (either just before or just after). This doubles their potential experiences of performing.

The choir performs on a number of other occasions: Christmas Fair, Summer Fair, Memory Café at the Methodist Church Hall.

Each year we invite musicians from Rockhampton Folk Festival to perform for us. This normally involves a small group coming to deliver a set on a particular theme. The instruments and performers change year on year, adding variety to the children's experiences. Sometimes there might be a more international feel, such as the performers in Autumn 2024, the Ganda Boys from Uganda.

There is a steel drum performance at each Summer Fair put on by a local youth steel band.

Where other performances are offered to the school, such as invitations to visit the local Secondary School, we endeavour to accommodate them.

4: In the future

In response to growing numbers in the Infants (due to school expansion), this year we plan to introduce a Spring Term Performance for the pupils in our two reception classes, which will provide them with additional opportunities for singing and performing.

We would like to increase the children's exposure to performed singing and music, possibly by inviting more musicians into school to perform.

We would also be interested in exploring the possibility of running other music clubs after school, where teachers, parents or community members have the skill and capacity to deliver them.