

Music development plan summary: Ashwood Spencer Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	August 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ellie Knott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Paula Baines-Chambers
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Ashwood Spencer Academy uses a spiral curriculum and meets the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) through the adoption of the Charanga on-line Music Scheme B in conjunction with other musical instrument units. This music scheme is delivered from Years 1 - 6, by either class teachers. Currently children receive a weekly 1 hour class music lesson. Music lessons are inclusive, and are accessed by all children.

In Early Years, music is delivered through holistic practice as an integral part of early development that musical development matters. Music is planned for across the four musical areas: Hearing & Listening, Vocalising & Singing, Moving & Dancing and Exploring & Playing. Children engage with music and sound every day and singing is integrated throughout the day. Each week there is a focused taught music lesson in FS2 following the Charanga online music scheme A.

In line with the Charanga Scheme children are taught to sing correctly, appraise a wide range of music and read, play, compose and improvise music on glockenspiels (KS1) and flutes, clarinets, ocarinas and p-buzzes (KS2), as well as a variety of unpitched instruments.

There are teacher-led instrument lessons using glockenspiels in Years 1, and 2, ocarinas in Years 3 and 5, p-buzzes in Year 6 and percussion instruments in FS1 and 2. In Year 4 all children are taught the violin by a specialist music teacher from Derbyshire Music Hub. Children receive a weekly 45-minute lesson for the year.

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.

Pupils at Ashwood take part in regular singing in lessons (outside of music lessons) to learn facts, times tables, remember and embed knowledge, establish and reinforce classroom routines, from FS1 to year 6.

Throughout the year in year 4, children take part in classroom instrumental learning clarinet and flute lessons (including instrument loan and entry for grades, where appropriate.). The school covers the full cost of lessons and instrument hire for all children.

In both music and computing lessons, music and audio is used to compose, record, edit and play back music and composition with Garage Band, Audacity and YuStudio. In music lessons, children spend a term each across KS2 developing these skills to create music and audio for a range of different uses.

Children listen to a wide range of repertoire of music played as children enter assemblies and classes use a wide range of calming music throughout the day. Music is played for dancing at lunchtimes, with a range of performance equipment for children to use.

A school choir is open to all pupils from years 1 – 6 with lunchtime and after school choir practise and visits to perform in local areas, schools and with Young Voices.

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.

Pupils at Ashwood take part in weekly singing assemblies with age and ability-appropriate songs for KS1 and KS2.

There are opportunities for FS2 and KS1 children to perform at their Christmas performances, celebrations every term singing songs to a theme for every year group from FS1 to Year 6, termly performances to parents in 'DREAM' celebration assemblies (both singing and instrument performances) and a Year 6 end-of-year show.

There is a school-wide competition – Ashwood's Got Talent – which showcases the learning and talents that pupils have beyond the curriculum, where children can perform for the rest of the school and parents and display their musical and performance skills from outside of school.

Our school choir sings at external concerts both within the local community and beyond. They have taken part in Young Voices at Sheffield Utilita Arena, sung for the community at a local shopping area and performed in Spencer Academy Trust-wide performances.

Each year in December, there is a trip for years 1 – 6 to watch a pantomime at Derby Arena. The school covers the full cost of the visit to this performance and is free to pupils.

In the future

Moving forward Ashwood is aiming to build on the music we already have in place by extending the opportunities to sing by expanding the choir. We are growing opportunities to perform across the year, with each year group planning a showcase for parents across the year.

We appreciate how vitally important it is to maintain the strong ties we have with our community and major music organisations throughout the city, and work in the future will focus on this, including inviting music visitors for performances and discussion.

We want to build on the enthusiasm generated from Ashwood's Got Talent and celebrate children's musical learning outside of school in our celebration assemblies.

We are expanding our offer of instruments to learn and want to continue this. We have expanded the use of instruments across KS2 with the launch of ocarinas in years 3 and 5, P-Buzzes in year 6 and flutes and clarinets in year 4.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.