

Music development plan summary: Abbey Woods Academy

Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025-26 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Sophie Charter |
| Name of local music hub | Oxfordshire Music Hub |

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 Abbey Woods Academy, the Charanga Musical School scheme is used as the foundation for music teaching and learning across the school.

- Music is taught weekly by class teachers in Years 1–6.
- In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), music is embedded through the wider curriculum via continuous provision, songs and rhymes, supported by Charanga resources.
- Singing is central to all music lessons and underpins musical learning across the school.

Charanga – what is it?

Charanga's Model Music Curriculum Scheme is fully aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the Department for Education's non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (2021).

The scheme provides:

- Clearly sequenced units of work with week-by-week lesson support for each year group
- Detailed lesson plans, assessment materials and progression frameworks

- Engaging songs, listening activities and interactive resources to support teaching
- Key learning outcomes and 'I Can' statements to support assessment

This structured approach ensures that all aspects of musical learning are covered, including listening, singing, composing, improvising and performing.

The curriculum is designed using a spiral approach, enabling pupils to revisit and build upon prior learning over time, deepening their understanding and increasing their confidence as musicians.

Teachers are able to adapt lessons to meet the needs of their class, ensuring flexibility and responsiveness to pupils' strengths and needs.

Inclusion

- All pupils participate in music lessons.
- Pupils with additional needs are supported through adaptive teaching and, where appropriate, short, targeted interventions.
- Pupils are not withdrawn from music lessons to receive interventions, ensuring equitable access to the full curriculum.

Further Information

Our music curriculum scheme can be accessed here:

[View Charanga Model Music Curriculum Scheme](#)

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 classes perform in at least one music assembly across the school year, providing regular opportunities for performance and sharing learning with others.
- Abbey Woods participates in the Dorchester Festival, giving pupils the opportunity to perform in a wider community context.
- A free choir club is offered when available and is open to all pupils, ensuring inclusive access to musical enrichment.
- The school welcomes visits from local orchestras, musicians and performers to enrich the curriculum and expose pupils to live music experiences.
- Within lessons, pupils learn to play a range of tuned and untuned instruments, including recorders, xylophones and a variety of percussion instruments.
- Opportunities are provided for informal performance, including class showcases and end-of-unit performances within lessons.

- Music is incorporated into whole-school events (e.g. celebrations, performances and seasonal events), allowing pupils to experience music as part of school life.
- Pupils are encouraged to develop confidence in performing, listening and responding to music through both curricular and co-curricular experiences.

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.

- Abbey Woods participates in the Dorchester Festival, providing pupils with the opportunity to perform as part of a wider community event.
- All classes take part in a music performance assembly across the school year, where they showcase their learning.
- All pupils participate in a performance each year:
 - EYFS and KS1 take part in a Nativity production
 - KS2 perform in a musical production
 - These performances include singing, drama and elements of musical performance.
- Pupils have regular opportunities to perform to an audience, including peers, staff and families, helping to develop confidence and stage presence.
- Opportunities are provided for pupils to experience live music through visiting performers and musicians.
- Pupils engage with a range of musical styles and traditions through performances and listening opportunities across the year.
- Music is incorporated into key school events and celebrations.
- Where possible, pupils are given opportunities to collaborate and perform as part of a group or ensemble.

In the future

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

Over the next two years, Abbey Woods aims to:

- Increase pupils' musical vocabulary and ability to discuss, analyse and evaluate music with confidence.
- Develop pupils' confidence and proficiency in playing a range of instruments.
- Strengthen staff subject knowledge and confidence in delivering the wider music curriculum through targeted CPD.

- Further develop opportunities for pupils to experience live music performances as part of curriculum enrichment.
- Expand opportunities for pupils to perform, including exploring additional community or partnership events.
- Develop links with external providers Oxfordshire Music Hub to enhance provision and broaden musical experiences.
- Ensure progression in musical skills is consistently embedded across all year groups.

Further information

For more information about the support and opportunities available through the local music hub, please visit:

<https://musichub.oxfordshire.gov.uk/about>

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.