Music Development Plan 2026-27

Vision

At Abbey Woods Academy, we believe that music is a powerful tool for creativity, self-expression and communication. Our music curriculum aims to inspire a lifelong appreciation of music whilst developing pupils' confidence as performers, composers and listeners.

All pupils will receive a broad and balanced music education which enables them to sing, listen, perform, compose and evaluate music whilst developing an understanding of musical traditions from a range of cultures and periods.

Music Curriculum Overview

During 2026-27, Abbey Woods Academy will deliver a transition music curriculum using selected units from Oak National Academy alongside whole-school singing, performance opportunities and enrichment activities.

This approach will ensure:

- Full National Curriculum coverage.
- Clear progression from Nursery to Year 6.
- Weekly music teaching in every class.
- Reduced curriculum gaps during a review of future curriculum provision.
- Consistent music experiences for all pupils.

Curriculum Intent

Through music, pupils will:

- Develop a love and enjoyment of music.
- Build confidence as performers.
- Learn to compose and improvise.
- Listen, appraise and evaluate music.
- Learn to play tuned and untuned instruments.
- Understand key musical concepts and vocabulary.

- Explore music from different cultures, traditions and historical periods.

Curriculum Implementation

Music is taught weekly in all classes.

Lessons include opportunities to:

- Sing
- Listen
- Appraise
- Compose
- Improvise
- Perform
- Explore notation
- Develop musical vocabulary

Each lesson begins with retrieval activities to revisit previously taught knowledge and vocabulary.

Music Entitlement

Every pupil will receive:

✅ Weekly music lessons
✅ Weekly singing assemblies
✅ Opportunities to perform to audiences
✅ Access to composition and improvisation activities
✅ Instrumental experiences
✅ Exposure to a range of musical styles and traditions
✅ Opportunities to participate in the Rocksteady Music School programme

Performance Opportunities

Opportunity	Year Groups
Nativity Performances	Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Christingle Service	Whole School
Carol Concert	Key Stage 2
Singing Assemblies	Whole School
Rocksteady Performances	Participating Pupils
Year Group Showcase	Year 3, 4, 5
Year 6 Leavers' Performance	Year 6

EYFS Music

Music forms part of Expressive Arts and Design and is delivered through:

- Nursery rhymes
- Singing games
- Music and movement
- Musical stories
- Instrument exploration
- Performances
- Continuous provision opportunities

Children are encouraged to:

- Join in with songs and rhymes.
- Explore sounds and instruments.
- Move rhythmically to music.
- Perform as part of a group.
- Create simple sound sequences.

Knowledge and Skills Progression

EYFS

Children learn:

- Loud and quiet sounds
- Fast and slow music
- Simple rhythm patterns
- Singing familiar songs
- Performing with others

Year 1/2

Children learn:

- Pulse
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Simple composition

Year 3/4

Children learn:

- Texture
- Drone
- Ostinato
- Rhythm notation
- Ensemble performance
- Melody composition

Year 4/5

Children learn:

- Harmony
- Timbre
- Structure

- Improvisation
- Stave notation
- Composition

Year 6

Children learn:

- Polyrhythms
- Musical genres
- Arrangement
- Variation
- Advanced composition
- Critical evaluation

Assessment

Music is assessed through:

- Observation
- Questioning
- Performance
- Composition outcomes
- Pupil voice
- End-of-unit assessments

Assessment judgements are recorded as:

Judgement	Description
Emerging	Beginning to demonstrate knowledge and skills taught
Developing	Demonstrates knowledge and skills with increasing independence
Secure	Independently demonstrates expected knowledge and skills

Assessment information is used to identify progression and inform future teaching. Assessment is proportionate and focuses on pupils' musical

development, performance, composition, listening skills and application of musical vocabulary.

Evidence Collection

Teachers collect:

- One audio or video recording per unit
- One photograph of learning
- One composition or notation example where appropriate
- Teacher assessment judgement
- Termly pupil voice

The Music Subject Leader will maintain a digital music portfolio containing recordings, photographs, pupil voice and assessment evidence demonstrating progression from Nursery to Year 6.

Enrichment and Instrumental Opportunities

Abbey Woods Academy enhances classroom music through:

- Rocksteady Music School
- Whole-school singing assemblies
- Public performances
- Church events
- Seasonal productions
- Class showcases

These opportunities allow pupils to apply musical skills in meaningful contexts.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Music Subject Leader and Curriculum Team monitors provision through:

Autumn Term

- Planning scrutiny
- Pupil voice
- Singing assembly observation

Spring Term

- Lesson visits
- Assessment review
- Recording scrutiny

Summer Term

- Performance moderation
- Pupil voice
- Subject evaluation

Findings are used to inform future curriculum development and ensure progression across the school.