Music Development Plan Summary:
Grove Park Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	1st October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1st October 2027
Name of the school music lead	Emma Smellie and Jonny Hibbert
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jonny Hibbert and Rachel Davies
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Service https://www.hounslowmusic.org.uk/
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sing Education

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.

At Grove Park Primary School, music is an important part of our curriculum and of the wider life of our school. Our school motto, **'Inspiring Each Other'**, is reflected in our ambition for every child to experience the enjoyment, creativity, confidence and sense of belonging that music can bring. We want our pupils not only to develop musical knowledge and skills, but also to sing, listen, perform, compose, create and collaborate. We want them to encounter a rich and diverse range of music and musicians, to see and hear inspiring role models and to understand that music is for everyone.

Our approach is deliberately inclusive. We want musical experiences to reach all children rather than being limited to those who already play an instrument or whose families are able to access opportunities independently. Specialist curriculum teaching, weekly singing, instrumental tuition, performance opportunities, partnerships with other schools and musicians, live music and the celebration of music throughout school life all contribute to our offer.

We are particularly mindful of removing barriers to participation. Pupil Premium funding is used to support access to musical opportunities where appropriate, and we actively encourage and support pupils, including those facing disadvantage, to take part in wider musical experiences and to continue their musical development.

Our music curriculum can be viewed here:
https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Music/

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is taught throughout Grove Park from Nursery to Year 6 and is supported by specialist music teaching through our long-established partnership with **Sing Education**.

Children in Nursery and Reception receive a weekly 30-minute specialist music lesson. Pupils in Years 1–6 receive a weekly 30-minute specialist curriculum music lesson alongside a further 30-minute specialist singing session within their key stage. This provides pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 with **one hour of planned specialist music provision each week**.

Our curriculum is progressive and practical. Across their time at Grove Park, children develop their knowledge, understanding and skills through:

- singing and developing the voice;
- pulse, rhythm and pitch;
- active listening and musical appreciation;
- playing tuned and untuned instruments;
- understanding and using musical notation;
- exploring tempo, dynamics, texture and structure;
- improvisation and composition;
- ensemble work;
- rehearsal and performance; and
- developing an increasingly rich musical vocabulary.

Children encounter music from different periods, traditions, genres and cultures. Teaching builds progressively so that pupils revisit and extend important musical concepts and increasingly use their knowledge independently when composing, performing and responding to music.

Our published Music Learning Journey provides further information about progression through our curriculum:

https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Music/

An inclusive approach to curriculum music

We are committed to ensuring that music is accessible to all pupils, including children with SEND and additional needs.

An important feature of our approach is that specialist music lessons are taught within pupils' **usual classrooms** wherever possible. This means children learn music in a familiar and predictable environment in which their established routines, seating arrangements, visual supports and other everyday adaptations are readily available.

The specialist music teacher works within the classroom environment familiar to the children and alongside the approaches already established by school staff. This supports pupils who may find transitions, unfamiliar spaces or changes to routine more challenging and helps ensure that additional needs do not become a barrier to participating fully in music.

Our emphasis is on appropriate adaptation so that all children can experience success as musicians while continuing to be part of the shared musical experience of their class.

Singing

Singing is an important part of musical life at Grove Park.

In addition to curriculum music lessons, every child in Years 1–6 participates in a weekly specialist singing session within their key stage. These sessions develop vocal technique, listening, ensemble singing, musical confidence and repertoire.

The specialist teacher also introduces children to music chosen by different members of our school community, creating opportunities to discuss musicians, composers, genres, musical messages and the cultural or historical context of different pieces.

This whole-school approach means that ensemble singing is experienced by **all pupils**, rather than only by children who opt into an additional choir.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We provide opportunities for children who wish to develop their instrumental skills beyond their classroom music lessons.

Instrumental tuition is delivered through both **Sing Education** and established independent peripatetic teachers. Individual and small-group lessons take place during the school day.

Current opportunities include instruments such as guitar and drums alongside the range of instrumental tuition available through Sing Education. The instrumental offer is reviewed according to demand and availability.

Families can access further information about Sing Education tuition and registration through:

https://www.singeducation.co.uk/

Pupils receiving instrumental tuition have opportunities to develop over time and may work towards external graded music examinations where appropriate. Musical achievements, including examination successes, are recognised and celebrated within school.

At the end of the year, pupils learning instruments through peripatetic tuition are given an opportunity to perform, providing an important purpose for their learning and experience of performing to an audience.

Removing barriers to participation

We recognise that the cost of learning an instrument can be a barrier for some families. We therefore use **Pupil Premium funding to support access to instrumental learning and wider musical opportunities where appropriate**.

Staff actively identify pupils who would particularly benefit from opportunities and encourage families to consider them. We also promote external opportunities, including music scholarships at local secondary

schools, and particularly support parents and carers of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium in exploring these routes.

Our aim is that financial circumstances should not unnecessarily restrict a child's opportunity to discover or develop a musical interest or talent.

Singing and ensemble development

Grove Park previously offered a traditional school choir. However, we reflected on the relatively small number of children this model reached and wanted to develop an approach through which many more pupils could experience high-quality ensemble singing.

Our weekly specialist singing provision now ensures that every pupil in Years 1–6 regularly sings collectively within their key stage.

During 2026–27, we are developing this model further by giving the singing sessions an increasingly strong **performance purpose**. Initially, key-stage groups will prepare performances to share with other pupils and staff. As the model becomes established, we intend to extend these opportunities to parents and carers, prospective families and, where possible, community events and performances beyond the school.

We will continue to review this developing whole-school vocal model against the National Plan for Music Education expectations for school choirs/vocal ensembles and instrumental ensembles.

Part C: Musical experiences

Music at Grove Park extends far beyond the formal music lesson. We want children to experience music as something that brings people together, communicates ideas and emotions, celebrates achievement and enriches community life.

Music within assemblies

Music is an important feature of assemblies at Grove Park.

Children who learn instruments are regularly encouraged to perform to the school. This allows them to share their talents, develop confidence and gain valuable experience of performing live in a supportive environment.

We also use assemblies deliberately to broaden children's musical experiences. Pupils listen to and discuss music across different genres, cultures, periods and traditions, often linked to the wider theme of an assembly.

Examples have included:

- exploring Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake when learning about Anna Pavlova and ballet;
- listening to Patrick Hawes' The Swan alongside other interpretations of a shared theme;
- comparing versions of Blackbird, including the Beatles' original and a contemporary interpretation, within an assembly about challenge, resilience and what birds can teach us about 'flying high';
- exploring Ella Fitzgerald, jazz and improvisation;

- learning about Stevie Wonder, his life and his use of the harmonica;
- listening to Harvest for the World by the Isley Brothers and considering its message around Harvest Festival;
- exploring contemporary music, including Coldplay's *A Sky Full of Stars*, and considering the way large-scale live music can create a shared emotional experience; and
- using a wide range of popular and contemporary music alongside classical, jazz and other musical traditions.

Through this approach, pupils are encouraged not simply to hear music but to **listen actively, make connections, talk about what they hear and understand something about the musicians and composers behind it**.

Performances throughout the school

Performance is an important feature of school life and children have repeated opportunities to perform for different audiences.

These include:

- EYFS and Key Stage 1 Christmas performances, in which singing is a significant element;
- a festive outdoor singing performance for pupils in Years 3 and 4;
- specialist music-teacher support in preparing songs so that pupils learn not simply the words but how to perform them musically and confidently;
- class-work celebration events for pupils in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6, during which every pupil contributes and classes prepare a song to share with parents and carers;
- the Year 6 summer production, incorporating acting, music, singing, dance and choreography;
- opportunities for pupils receiving peripatetic instrumental tuition to perform; and
- individual performances within assemblies and other school events.

These experiences ensure that performance is not reserved for a small group of children. Across their journey through Grove Park, pupils encounter a range of opportunities to perform collectively and individually and to experience being both a performer and an audience member.

Year 6 production

The Year 6 production is a particularly important culmination of pupils' experience of performance at Grove Park.

The specialist music teacher works alongside school staff to support the musical elements of the production, including singing, harmony, musical interpretation and the relationship between movement, choreography and music.

Pupils work towards a high-quality shared outcome for an authentic audience, developing musical skills alongside confidence, teamwork, commitment and resilience.

Live performance and inspiring role models

Our school motto is **'Inspiring Each Other'**, and we believe that children should have opportunities to see other young people making and performing music successfully.

We therefore work with local secondary schools and other partners to provide opportunities for children to experience live music and theatre. Recent opportunities have included pupils attending performances at Brentford School for Girls and Chiswick School.

Seeing older pupils performing is particularly valuable. It allows Grove Park children to identify with performers who are only a few years ahead of them and helps them to imagine themselves taking part in music, drama and performance as they move into secondary education.

We also welcome secondary-aged musicians into Grove Park. Examples have included live steel pan performances linked to Black History Month and choral performances at Christmas.

We intend to continue expanding these reciprocal relationships with local schools.

Partnerships and wider musical opportunities

We actively seek opportunities for pupils to make music beyond Grove Park.

Our links with schools including Hampton School and The Latymer School, alongside other local partners, enable children to experience different musical environments, musicians and ensembles.

One example is Hampton School's Junior Schools Music Workshop. Pupils in Year 3 and above have been invited to participate in workshops for string, wind and brass players, alongside a choir for singers. Children work with experienced musicians, experience performing as part of a larger ensemble and take part in a concert for families at the end of the day.

The opportunity is free to participating families and we actively encourage pupils who might not otherwise access such experiences to take part, with particular consideration given to pupils eligible for Pupil Premium.

These partnerships help pupils understand that their musical journey can extend beyond the school gates.

Our school song and music as community

Music has also provided opportunities to strengthen Grove Park's sense of identity and community.

With the support of a parent, pupils participated in a special music-making project which included the creation and recording of a **Grove Park school song**.

The project gave children experience of creating and recording music together and demonstrated how music can capture something of the identity and values of a community.

Our school song can be heard here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbZWUBdIfoY

Celebrating musical achievement

We want children to be proud of themselves as musicians.

Instrumental achievements and graded examination successes are celebrated in assemblies and pupils are encouraged to share musical accomplishments with the wider school.

Music is also celebrated as a curriculum subject through school communications and newsletters so that parents and carers can see what children have been learning and the range of opportunities available.

Our newsletters can be found here:

https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/WeeklyNewsletter/

In the future

We are proud of the breadth of music already experienced by pupils at Grove Park and will continue to develop our provision thoughtfully. Our priorities are about **building on strong foundations and extending the opportunities available to all pupils**.

1. Develop our inclusive whole-school vocal model

During 2026–27 we will continue to develop the weekly specialist singing sessions in Years 1–6 so that children increasingly work towards purposeful shared performances.

The first stage will be performances for pupils and staff within school, creating a supportive audience and giving children a clear reason to rehearse and refine their work.

We then plan to develop opportunities to perform to parents and carers, prospective families and, where appropriate, within community and borough events.

This approach aims to combine high-quality ensemble singing with our commitment to inclusion, ensuring that the opportunity to sing collectively reaches all pupils rather than only a small self-selecting group.

2. Develop further ensemble opportunities

We will continue to explore how pupils can experience instrumental and vocal ensemble music-making, both within Grove Park and through partnerships.

We will build upon opportunities such as the Hampton School Junior Schools Music Workshop and our relationships with other local schools so that more pupils can experience what it is like to rehearse and perform as part of a larger musical group.

3. Increase opportunities to experience live performance

We will continue to develop opportunities for pupils to experience high-quality live music and performance.

Our developing relationships with local secondary schools are particularly important because they allow children to see relatable role models performing successfully.

We will seek to broaden these opportunities over time, including performances in school, visits to schools and music venues and opportunities offered through our Music Hub and other partners.

We will continue to pay particular attention to ensuring that pupils facing disadvantage can participate fully.

5. Continue to broaden pupils' musical horizons

We will continue developing the breadth of music children encounter through curriculum teaching, singing, assemblies and wider school life.

Our aim is for children to leave Grove Park having encountered music from a wide range of composers, performers, genres, cultures and traditions, while understanding that music continues to evolve and that there are many different ways to participate in it.

We will continue to use music to make meaningful connections with other areas of learning, significant events and themes explored through assemblies, while also ensuring that music is valued and understood as a rich discipline in its own right.

Further information

Further information about music at Grove Park can be found through the following links:

Grove Park Music Curriculum:
https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Music/

Grove Park newsletters and examples of musical experiences:
https://www.groveparkprimary.co.uk/Parents/WeeklyNewsletter/

Sing Education:
https://www.singeducation.co.uk/