



## Music development plan summary: Overview

| Detail                                                                     | Information                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                     | 2025-26                        |
| Date this summary was published                                            | November 2024                  |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                         | September 2026                 |
| Name of the school music lead                                              | Erin Coleman                   |
| Name of local music hub                                                    | Surrey Arts                    |
| Name of other music education organisation(s)<br>(if partnership in place) | Surrey Arts<br>The Music Works |

*At Godalming Junior School, we believe that music can be a wonderful tool to ‘spark’ children’s imagination and creative drive, therefore igniting a ‘lifetime of passion’ to explore the musical world around them. We strive to produce increasingly confident and capable budding musicians who, by the end of Year 6, are able to read, follow, compose and perform music from a range of different styles, genres and traditions from around the world.*

This document is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas - curriculum music, extra-curricular provision and musical performances and experiences - alongside the development points that we are working towards. This information is in line with The National Plan for Music Education and is here 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.

- The staff at Godalming Junior School work hard to produce highly engaging and effective lessons that follow our carefully sequenced long-term plan and **Progression of Skills** that is largely based on the [Department for Education’s Model Music Curriculum](#).
- Our overall aim is to ensure that by the end of Year 6, children are able to read and follow musical notation whilst singing or playing either the glockenspiel or recorder, as well as learning how to comment on and compose a range of music.
- Due to the cyclical nature of our curriculum, children will experience learning both focus instruments whilst in the lower and upper school in order to develop their breath control and ability to play in time, maintaining the correct tempo. Within those units, they will also gradually build on their existing knowledge of composition that will lead to them exploring how to compose their own examples or extracts of music from their focus genre.



# Godalming Junior School

- Within a year, children will have participated in 6 units of music that alternate between having a 'playing' or 'singing' focus. These swap half-termly so that children can gradually build on the knowledge that they already have and reflect on what they already know before moving on. Although they will predominantly focus on learning either the recorder or glockenspiel, children will also experience playing and experimenting with a range of tuned and un-tuned percussion, particularly when exploring composition in detail.
- Music is taught weekly in our dedicated Music Room that includes focus vocabulary, a timeline of musical history and our range of instruments.
- Our class teachers are well equipped to plan and teach effective lessons that are informed by our own long-term plan and **progression of skills**.
- Our curriculum is engaging, creative and more closely tailored to the needs and interests of children at GJS.
- Staff have undertaken a range of CPD and we pride ourselves on being individuals who strive to improve understanding of different musical concepts in order to produce the best possible lessons.
- All lessons have a skills focus, whether that be reading notation, playing/performing, improvising, composing or singing. As previously stated, the cyclical nature of our curriculum allows children to regularly refer back to their prior learning and securely build on their knowledge before moving onto the next lesson, unit or year group.
- The majority of lessons include a 'listen and appraise' starter where careful thought has been put into deciding which genre, tradition or period in musical history children will explore. They will listen to and learn how to comment on a range of pieces either within that genre or perhaps some that they are able to compare to their focus genre. This may then lead to them performing, improvising or composing a piece of music linked to that. As a **language rich** school, we want to do more than simply have children listening to and discussing what they enjoy about music but instead form an opinion about different pieces as well as start to understand the purpose behind compositions and the musician/composers choices.
- Towards the end of each unit, depending on the skills focus, children participate in an activity that is designed to allow the teacher to assess their skills and progress in a non-threatening way. This is then used to inform the pitch and planning of subsequent lessons and units.

## Part B: Extra-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.

- Weekly small group and 1:1 lessons are provided by qualified music teachers from The Music Works and Surrey Arts. This includes singing, keyboard, drumming, guitar and bass lessons. Although these lessons are paid for by parents, we work alongside The Music Works to offer bursary places to children who either receive Pupil Premium funding or come from low income families. We believe that all children should be given the opportunity to explore and develop their interests and talents in both within the school curriculum but also outside the classroom.
- Godalming Junior School are very proud of their inclusive, after school choir that meet weekly with the Music lead, Erin Coleman. They work hard to learn a range of songs that are then performed in half termly assemblies and within the local community. Over the last few years, we performed at the Mayors concerts, a local performance of the Snowman and the local ChoirBlast music festival where many members of our school community came to cheer on our performers.



## Part C: Musical Performances and 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.

- Throughout the year, children have the opportunity to participate in performances with/to the whole school or members of the wider community. This includes our Carols by Candle light at the end of the Autumn term where each year group performs the Christmas carols that they've learnt to their peers and families.
- At the end of the year, our Year 6s participate in and perform their end of year production to the whole school and then members of their family.
- All children are given the opportunity to participate and perform in a way that is comfortable for them.
- Working alongside The Music Works has meant that we are able to put on a Music Showcase each year where their students are able to perform to the whole school alongside their music teachers. This event is a real highlight of the year and children enjoy having the opportunity to showcase the skills that they've developed.
- Alongside this, The Music Works also put on a whole school assembly with their teacher band at the start of the year. This gives children the opportunity to not only experience high quality, live music but it also allows them to begin to consider if there is a different area of music that they'd like to explore further.
- At the end of most half terms, the school choir will perform a song that links to our focus school value in our celebration assembly.
- With our school choir, we strive to perform in school and around the local area as often as possible, trying to make links different groups and spread our school joy and values.
- Finally, whilst children are entering and leaving our weekly assemblies, members of staff will play a piece of music that children can enjoy listening to and might also link to the assembly topic. This not only creates a calming environment for children but also allows them a chance to explore a good variety of music each week.

## In the future

This year, our school improvement priorities for music are:

- **Ensure that composition books demonstrate a clear progression of skills for reading, improvising or composing music across the school.** This will be monitored closely by the Music lead with strong examples shared in staff meetings.
- ***Begin to explore what composition tasks look like within 'singing' based units.*** Some work has already begun in this area with the Music lead compiling lessons for different year groups. Following the completion of these, adjustments can be made to ensure that lessons are in line with our progression of skills and that tasks are appropriate and engaging enough for children to complete.
- **Begin using 'Sing Up' songs within teaching units and within the school choir in order to ensure that there are a range of accessible, child appropriate songs being used.** This will be monitored closely by the Music lead with feedback given where appropriate.