

Music development plan summary: Grimsdyke School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Karen Tickner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Harrow Music Service
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.

At Grimsdyke School, we believe in nurturing the musical talents of every child. Each pupil receives one hour per week of specialist-led music education, ensuring a consistent and high-quality learning experience. Our curriculum is based on the *Model Music Curriculum* (March 2021) and is designed to be practical and engaging, with children actively singing, playing instruments, and creating music in every lesson.

We are committed to inclusivity in music education. Children who require additional support receive it in a variety of ways, including peer support and targeted adult guidance, so that all pupils can participate fully and make progress. We believe music is an essential part of a broad and balanced education, enriching children's learning and personal development.

In addition, pupil premium subsidies are available to support access to paid instrumental lessons, ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent children from pursuing their musical interests.

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.

Our partnership with Harrow Music Service plays a vital role in extending musical opportunities beyond curriculum lessons. In addition to supporting whole-class instrumental teaching, they also provide individual and small-group tuition. Pupils can choose from a wide range of instruments, including guitar, brass, violin, and woodwind, enabling them to develop their skills further and pursue their own musical interests.

We are proud to offer whole-class instrumental lessons as part of our provision. Currently, Year 3 pupils learn to play the recorder, Year 4 learn to play the ukulele, Year 5 experience the excitement of Samba percussion, and Year 6 engage with the rich rhythms of African drumming. These experiences introduce children to different musical traditions and performance skills, helping to build confidence and enjoyment.

Singing is central to music at Grimsdyke. Our school choir meets weekly as part of our Curriculum Enrichment programme, led by the musical director of the Tonic Choir, who works with the children to develop and refine their vocal technique. The choir has regular performance opportunities, including an annual Christmas concert at the local church, singing alongside other Harrow school choirs at the Harrow Arts Centre, performing for the school community during VE Day celebrations, and taking part in the Year 6 leavers' assembly. Through these experiences, children sing a wide range of repertoire drawn from different cultures and musical periods.

A highlight of the school year is our annual carnival celebration, where every class performs on stage to an audience of family and friends. This whole-school event showcases the creativity, enthusiasm, of our pupils, giving them the chance to perform in a celebratory and supportive environment.

We also provide further performance opportunities in partnership with local schools. Groups of pupils have been invited to sing alongside other primary choirs and secondary students, and some have even taken part in joint productions, such as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. These collaborations enrich pupils' musical experiences and allow them to showcase their talents in wider community settings.

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.

At Grimsdyke School, we value the voices and talents of our children, providing them with a wide range of opportunities to share and celebrate their music-making. Singing is an important part of school life, with regular opportunities to sing together in assemblies. These regular performances help pupils build confidence, develop vocal skills, and understand the importance of working as part of a group. Throughout the year, pupils also take part in Christmas performances and end-of-year productions, giving them the chance to perform for families and the wider school community, further developing stage presence and performance skills.

A highlight of the school calendar is our annual Carnival, where every class takes to the stage to present a dance and song. This vibrant event showcases the diverse musical and creative talents of our pupils and provides a valuable opportunity for them to rehearse, perform, and collaborate, reinforcing the skills and knowledge gained in lessons.

Children in Years 5 and 6 participate in *Young Voices*, a unique programme that enables them to perform at Wembley Arena alongside thousands of other pupils from across the country. Guided by professional coaches, they rehearse a wide variety of songs and perform in an inspiring arena setting, often alongside professional musicians. This experience not only builds technical singing ability but also fosters teamwork, perseverance, and a sense of achievement in a large-scale performance context.

We also provide pupils with opportunities to engage with professional music-making, broadening their cultural and artistic understanding. Children in Years 3 and 6 have taken part in workshops with *The Mozartists*, including live performances and interactive sessions that introduce pupils to classical music and performance techniques. Year 3 also visited the Royal Festival Hall to watch the London Symphony Orchestra perform Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, giving them firsthand experience of world-class musicianship. EYFS and KS1 pupils enjoyed a workshop led by the Nonsuch Orchestra, which allowed them to see and hear orchestral instruments up close and connect classroom learning to live music experiences. These events develop pupils' musical literacy, listening skills, and appreciation of a range of musical styles.

In collaboration with the local music hub, we also host a *Musical Showcase*, celebrating the achievements of pupils across all year groups. This event provides a platform for children to perform in a supportive environment, building confidence, reinforcing musical knowledge, and inspiring them to continue developing their skills. Such experiences help pupils progress beyond the core curriculum, nurturing a lifelong love of music and fostering aspiration in both musical and wider creative pursuits.

In the future

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

At Grimsdyke School, we are committed to continually developing our music curriculum and expanding opportunities for all pupils. Building on our successful introduction of recorders, we plan to develop this further throughout the school, enabling pupils to become confident and competent in notation, rhythm, musicality, and performance by

Year 6. To support this, we aim to introduce a weekly Recorder Club, giving pupils the chance to play together, develop ensemble skills, and explore a wider repertoire.

We also plan to further develop Ukulele skills in Year 4, continuing to build technical ability, musical understanding, and ensemble performance. This will be supported by whole-class lessons and enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom.

Other future priorities include:

- Continuing to provide regular opportunities for pupils to attend and watch live professional performances, including orchestras, theatre productions, and contemporary music events, to broaden cultural experiences and inspire musical aspiration.
- Maintaining and expanding performance opportunities across the school