

Watchfield Primary School Music Development Plan

Time Frame: 2024 - 2027

Plan Review Date: Annual reviews, with the next review scheduled for September 1st, 2025.

1. School Music Vision Statement

Vision:

To create a thriving musical environment at Watchfield Primary School where every student can discover, develop, and express their musical talents, ensuring a lifelong engagement with music. Music is a vital part of any child's education. The benefits children experience from participating in music activities are numerous. The simple act of singing as part of a group has been proven to have an enormously positive impact on mental well-being. It provides an opportunity for the school community to bond and work together with instant results, lifts mood, and offers a welcome break in the middle of a busy week.

2. Current Provision and Audit

Strengths:

- **Specialist Instrument Lessons:** Students have the opportunity to learn instruments such as piano, guitar, violin, and flute from outside specialists, providing high-quality instruction.
- **Kapow Music Scheme:** The school uses the Kapow music scheme, which facilitates a well-structured progression of musical skills across all year groups.
- **Wide Range of Instruments:** The school has a diverse collection of musical instruments available for student use.
- **Weekly Music Lessons:** Every child from Year 1 to Year 6 has a weekly music lesson every other half term. This large-group teaching focuses on singing techniques, learning new songs, directed and focused listening, and putting music into historical context. Provision is complemented by class teaching, which is, whenever appropriate, topic-linked.
- **Instrument Lessons and Performance:** All children have the opportunity to have a term of instrument lessons within the classroom and the chance to perform for others. Music lessons frequently offer practical music-making opportunities.

- **Singing Assemblies:** Weekly singing assemblies are held to encourage and teach singing along with musical technique.
- **Annual Productions:** Students rehearse and perform in a production once a year, in paired year groups, offering opportunities to learn new songs, perfect performance techniques, and contribute to a group performance. The school also holds an 'Arts Week' every summer term, focusing on a different theme each year, where music can play a role.
- **Listening Programme:** A listening programme is being introduced to help the whole school learn how to listen to music actively and answer related questions. The goal is to continue enhancing quality musical discussion across the school.
- **Extracurricular Choir:** The school choir, led by Mrs. Wilson, provides an additional platform for students to develop their vocal skills.
- **Annual Singing Events:** Students participate in several singing activities throughout the year, including Young Voices, DAFFY Christmas performances, and trust-wide events.
- **Whole School Approach:** A cohesive, whole-school approach to music education ensures that all students receive consistent and comprehensive musical experiences.

Areas for Development:

- **Assessment and Recording:** A key area for improvement is ensuring robust assessment methods and quality recording of students' musical outcomes.
- **Curriculum Depth:** Further integration and customization of the Kapow scheme to fully meet the needs of all year levels.
- **Resource Variety:** Although a wide range of instruments is available, there is a need to ensure adequate maintenance and accessibility.
- **Performance Opportunities:** Continue to expand platforms for students to perform and showcase their talents.

3. Key Objectives

1. Curriculum Enhancement:

Further develop and customize the Kapow music scheme to align with the specific needs and interests of Watchfield Primary School students.

2. **Resource Improvement:**

Maintain and expand the range of musical instruments and facilities to support a broader range of musical activities and learning.

3. **Assessment and Recording:**

Develop and implement effective assessment strategies to accurately measure and record student progress in music.

4. **Extracurricular Expansion:**

Increase the number and variety of extracurricular music activities, supporting the growth of the school choir and additional music clubs.

5. **Community and Parental Engagement:**

Strengthen community partnerships and increase parental involvement in music education.

6. **Performance Opportunities:**

Create regular opportunities for students to perform, both within the school and in the wider community.

7. **Listening Skills Development:**

Successfully implement the listening programme to enhance students' ability to actively listen to and understand music.

8. **Annual Singing Events:**

Continue to support and expand participation in singing activities, including Young Voices, DAFFY Christmas performances, and trust-wide events.

4. Actions to Achieve Objectives

Objective 1: Curriculum Enhancement

- **Action:** Review and adapt the Kapow music scheme to better cater to the needs of different year groups.
- **Action:** Integrate additional resources and activities, including the listening programme, to complement the Kapow scheme.
- **Action:** Implement assessment strategies that align with the Kapow curriculum and support student progression.

Objective 2: Resource Improvement

- **Action:** Regularly audit and maintain the existing range of instruments to ensure they are in good working condition.

- **Action:** Purchase new instruments as needed to fill gaps and expand musical opportunities.
- **Action:** Upgrade the music room with proper storage, audio-visual equipment, and space for the listening programme.

Objective 3: Assessment and Recording

- **Action:** Develop clear assessment criteria for each stage of the Kapow music scheme.
- **Action:** Introduce digital tools and platforms for recording and tracking student progress in music.
- **Action:** Provide guidance for staff on how to effectively assess and record musical outcomes.

Objective 4: Extracurricular Expansion

- **Action:** Continue to support and grow the school choir led by Mrs. Wilson.
- **Action:** Establish additional music clubs and ensembles based on student interest.
- **Action:** Engage external instructors and volunteers for specialized activities.

Objective 5: Community and Parental Engagement

- **Action:** Partner with local music organizations for workshops and events.
- **Action:** Organize parent-student music workshops and establish a music parents committee.
- **Action:** Host community concerts and showcase events.

Objective 6: Performance Opportunities

- **Action:** Schedule regular in-school performances and recitals.
- **Action:** Participate in local music festivals and competitions.
- **Action:** Record and share performances within the school community.

Objective 7: Listening Skills Development

- **Action:** Implement the listening programme across all year groups, incorporating it into weekly lessons.
- **Action:** Develop listening exercises and questions to accompany the programme.

- **Action:** Evaluate the effectiveness of the listening programme through student feedback and performance.

Objective 8: Annual Singing Events

- **Action:** Continue to participate in Young Voices, DAFFY Christmas performances, and trust-wide singing events.
 - **Action:** Encourage more students to join and prepare for these events.
 - **Action:** Celebrate and share these experiences with the wider school community through recordings and newsletters.
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5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Responsibility:

A Music Development Committee will be established, comprising teachers, administrators, and parent representatives, under the leadership of the Music Subject Leader, David Robinson.

Review Process:

- **Annual Review:** The committee will conduct an annual review of progress towards each objective, with the next review scheduled for September 1st, 2025.
- **Student Feedback:** Regular feedback from students will be collected through surveys and discussions.
- **Parental Involvement:** Parents will be invited to provide input on the effectiveness of music programs.

Success Indicators:

- **Curriculum Implementation:** Full integration and customization of the Kapow music scheme and listening programme by the end of 2024.
- **Resource Availability:** Well-maintained and accessible range of instruments by 2025.
- **Assessment Accuracy:** Effective and accurate assessment and recording of student musical progress across all year levels.
- **Staff Engagement:** Classroom teachers effectively using and supplementing the Kapow scheme and leading singing assemblies.
- **Student Participation:** Growth in enrollment and engagement in extracurricular music activities, particularly in the school choir and annual singing events.

- **Community Involvement:** Increased number of community partnerships and parent involvement in music activities.
 - **Performance Quality:** Improved quality and frequency of student performances.
 - **Listening Skills Development:** Observable improvement in students' ability to listen to and analyze music.
 - **Event Participation:** Continued and expanded participation in events like Young Voices and DAFFY Christmas performances.
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6. Additional Information

Risk Management:

- **Budget Limitations:** Actively seek external funding to supplement school resources.
 - **Staffing:** Ensure ongoing training and support for classroom teachers to maintain high teaching standards.
 - **Community Engagement:** Continually communicate the importance of music education to parents and the community to sustain involvement and support.
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Prepared by: Claire Hartley, Music Subject Leader

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