

# Music development plan summary: Heathfield Junior School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Danielle Wood
Name of local music hub	Richmond Music Trust

Heathfield Junior School prides itself on the quality, breadth, and inclusivity of the music it offers their children. We offer a high-quality music education for all and as such, we meet a high proportion of what is identified within the HM Government's National Plan of Music (NPM).

## Curriculum music

Heathfield Junior Schools uses a spiral curriculum in KS2 and meets the requirements of the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) through the adoption of the Charanga on-line Music Scheme. We mix the original music scheme, which includes popular and well-known songs, with their new MMC scheme. The PPA teachers deliver music lessons to each class on a fortnightly basis. In line with the Charanga Scheme, children are taught to sing properly, appraise a wide range of music and read, play, compose and improvise music on glockenspiels and recorders, as well as a variety of unpitched instruments. The children have a chance to compose their own drumbeats, melodies and piece of music using the YUMI programme on Charanga. Each class has the chance to perform one of the songs that they have been learning in music lessons to the rest of the school during a singing assembly. This gives all children the opportunity to experience what it is like to be a performer on a stage in front of a 'live' audience. As well as this, the children participate in a weekly singing assembly, which is led by a professional singing teacher. Lastly, at the beginning of each assembly, the children listen to a range of music following the Charanga listening scheme. This further enhances their appreciation of a range of different musical styles and composers. Pupils with special educational needs (SEND) are supported well in music by implementing our 'Ordinary Available Provision' approach.

## Extra-Curricular Music

Pupils at Heathfield have the opportunity to take part in weekly 'Rocksteady' band sessions led by an outside provider. No music experience is required and the children have a chance to learn the guitar, drums, keyboard or sing. The Rocksteady Band perform every term for the rest of the school. A music specialist leads the sessions. 25% of the children that attend 'Rocksteady' have obtained a free bursary place.

For those children who love to sing, the children can join the Federation Choir, open to children in Years 2-6. Currently, approximately 80 children attend choir each week. This is led by Heathfield Infants and Nursery School's music lead, who is a vocal specialist. As well as performing regularly at school events such as the Christmas Church Service and the school fair, the choir take part on the Richmond Music Trust Singing Festival every year at The Rose Theatre in Kingston. This is a real highlight for all involved as the children get to perform with a live band as well as experience singing in a large, professional theatre. They also have a chance to sing with other schools to create a massed vocal ensemble of over 500 voices.

The choice of repertoire from a variety of cultures and traditions in vocal and instrumental lessons, as well as our choir and singing assembly repertoire, offers a powerful way to promote diversity. Creating a culture where all music is celebrated and respected encourages learners to be confident in enjoying, embracing, and sharing the music that is meaningful to them.

The music lead of Heathfield Infants and Nursery School provides singing lessons to selected students who are put forward to achieve their music grades in singing. Over the past 3 years, the following number of children have taken and passed their singing exams: twenty prep exam, nineteen grade 1, seventeen grade 2 and one grade 3. In November 2024, four more children will sit their singing prep exam. These children also take part in performances at local care homes, and school events.

In Year 4, all of the classes take part in an 8-week programme to learn Guitars, which is provided by Richmond Music Trust. This encourages the children to try a new instrument that isn't offered in the usual music curriculum. It is a taster session, which they can then sign up to continue guitar lessons with the providers if they wish.

Recorder club is offered to any student in the school by the Heathfield Junior School music lead. The children are taught to read music, learn how to properly hold and play the recorder and learn notes beyond what they would in the classroom. We focus on songs that include new notes to stretch their musical knowledge, which then leads to a final big piece of music to perform at the end of each term to the Infant and Junior Schools.

## **Musical experiences**

All children at Heathfield take part in weekly singing assemblies led by a professional singing teacher. Music is also incorporated into other assemblies such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter Services, as well as other festivals throughout the year.

'Music Maestros' are children that assist the music teachers by modelling warm ups and song parts in choir rehearsals and supporting the junior school music assembly each week. They will also have leadership responsibilities in choir events, such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs and the Richmond Music Trust Singing Festival. 'Music Maestros' are selected each half term from children in the choir in Years 3 to 6. These children have shown their commitment to musical activities within the school and demonstrated their interest in a leadership role through regular attendance and engagement in choir rehearsals and performances.

Children enjoy watching performances from our half-termly class performances and termly recorder club performances, as well as the Rocksteady bands.

There is a display in the school hall of all of the music that is offered and participated in at Heathfield. There is another display, opposite the classroom where recorder club is held, displaying essential music vocabulary and notation. Lastly, there is a display opposite the music room that highlights the children's singing grade certificates. This both celebrates the children successes and promotes what can be achieved in singing to all children.

## In the future

The Heathfield Junior Music lead is planning to:

- Increase opportunities for pupils to experience live music performances e.g. visits from local secondary school bands and ensembles
- Introduce music workshops provided by local secondary schools
- Plan trips to music venues to experience live performances. (Bright Sparks at the London Philharmonic Orchestra)

## Further information

Richmond Music Trust:

<https://www.richmondmusictrust.org.uk/site/>

Rocksteady:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Charanga:

<https://charanga.com/site/>

