

Unsworth Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary 2026–2027

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year	2026–2027
Date published	September 2026
Review date	September 2027
Music Subject Leader	Tahseen Ali
Local Music Hub	Bury Music Service
Music education partners	Fiddlestixkatie Front Row Music

This plan summarises how **Unsworth Primary School** delivers high-quality music education for all pupils. It sets out our approach across three key areas: **curriculum music, extra-curricular music and wider musical experiences**, alongside our priorities for the continued development of music across school.

We aim for all pupils, including pupils with SEND and those who are disadvantaged, to experience the enjoyment of making, performing, listening to and responding to music. Music forms an important part of our wider curriculum and contributes to pupils' confidence, creativity, self-expression and personal development.

Part A: Curriculum Music

At Unsworth Primary School, Music is taught progressively from the Early Years through to Year 6, building pupils' knowledge, skills and musical understanding over time.

We expose pupils at Unsworth to music from an early age and capture their enthusiasm through engaging music lessons. We believe music enables pupils to develop their teamwork skills, self-confidence, empathy, communication skills and intellectual curiosity.

Music teaching is timetabled for up to 1 hour per week throughout key stage 1 and 2, which includes our weekly singing assembly.

We use the Sing Up! scheme throughout school to ensure we teach the knowledge and skills within the National Curriculum. The scheme embeds the musical knowledge and skills that are required. Within each unit, pupils can learn to sing and play an instrument, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching or in smaller groups.

The scheme ensures core knowledge and skills are taught, practised, and revisited so that the learning is durable. The scheme is carefully sequenced to expose pupils to a range of musical genres as well as develop knowledge and skills in musical theory and vocabulary.

Evidence of pupil's learning in Music is captured on See Saw (a digital portfolio) and is shared with pupils and parents. This is a tool which captures the progression of skills throughout the school and highlights the pupils' achievements within Music.

Early Years

In EYFS, music is embedded within both planned learning and continuous provision. Pupils are provided with regular opportunities to:

- sing songs, rhymes and familiar melodies.
- explore rhythm, pulse, pitch and sound.
- experiment with tuned and untuned instruments.
- listen and respond to different styles of music.
- move and perform in response to music.
- create and explore their own sounds and musical ideas.

Music supports pupils' wider development, particularly communication and language, physical development, confidence, and self-expression.

Key Stages 1 and 2

Music teaching provides pupils with opportunities to develop the key elements of musical learning, including:

- singing
- listening and appraising
- performing
- playing instruments
- improvising
- composing
- understanding rhythm, pulse and pitch
- developing knowledge of musical notation
- exploring a broad range of musical styles, traditions and cultures

The curriculum is sequenced so pupils revisit and develop important musical knowledge and skills as they move through school. The units of learning allow the pupils to have regular exposure to musical terminology, focussing on the key elements: duration, pitch, dynamics, timbre and texture, tempo, and structure.

Singing is an important element of music at Unsworth and takes place within curriculum lessons alongside assemblies, class performances and wider school events. Pupils develop increasing control, accuracy, expression and confidence when singing individually and collectively.

In lessons, pupils have the opportunity to explore a range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments and to develop their understanding of how music is created and performed. As Pupils move through school, they have the opportunity to gain valuable experiences and play a number of instruments including Ocarinas (Y2), the Recorder (Y3), the Glockenspiel (Y4) and Violins (Y5).

Musical vocabulary is explicitly developed so that pupils increasingly have the language needed to listen to, discuss and evaluate music.

We aim to ensure that the curriculum represents music from **different periods, traditions, cultures and communities**, helping pupils understand the significance of music in the wider world.

Inclusion

Music at Unsworth is for **every child**.

Appropriate adaptations are made to ensure that pupils with SEND can participate fully and successfully in music lessons and performances. Teachers consider pupils individual needs and provide appropriate resources, scaffolding or alternative approaches where required.

We also aim to ensure disadvantaged pupils have equitable access to curriculum and wider musical opportunities.

Part B: Extra Curricular Music

At Unsworth, we recognise that high-quality music education extends beyond the classroom. Pupils are provided with opportunities to participate in musical activities beyond their regular curriculum entitlement.

We aim to ensure that:

- pupils who demonstrate a particular interest or talent in music are encouraged to develop this further.
- barriers to participation are considered so that opportunities remain inclusive.
- pupils have opportunities to rehearse and perform collectively.
- pupils experience the enjoyment and discipline of being part of a musical group.
- musical achievement and participation are recognised and celebrated.

Choir is offered to Key Stage 2 pupils, providing an opportunity for them to develop singing, boost confidence and performance skills. We have a flourishing key stage 2 choir, led by our Specialist Music teacher Katie Geelan, who meet once a week. Pupils have the opportunity to sing at local community spaces as well as school concerts/events.

Pupils perform in a number of school productions during their primary school; at an EYFS Christmas concert, KS1 Nativity Production, KS2 Christmas Sing-along and their final Y6 Summer Production. In addition to this, all pupils will take part in an annual class assembly, often learning topic related songs which they enjoy performing for an audience and their parents.

Our pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their instrumental skills through specialist peripatetic teaching (Front Row Music) where they can learn to play the Guitar or Ukelele. Peripatetic lessons take the form of group tuition provided by Front Row Music. In total, 33 pupils learning to play these instruments with Front Row Music. Pupils are encouraged to practice their instruments outside of lesson time. The school hosts a number of music concerts to enable pupils to perform for their parents.

As part of our wider opportunities offer, all our Y5 pupils learn to play the violin. All pupils are provided with a violin and weekly lessons are taught by our specialist music teacher over two terms. Learning is celebrated with an impressive concert performance for the school and parents.

Opportunities for extra-curricular music will continue to be reviewed as part of the school's wider enrichment offer.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Music contributes significantly to the wider experiences and opportunities offered to pupils at Unsworth.

Throughout their time at school, pupils have opportunities to **perform for different audiences**, including their peers, staff, families and the wider school community.

Musical experiences can include:

- singing during assemblies.
- Christmas and seasonal performances.
- EYFS and Key Stage performances.
- Year 6 end of year performances and celebrations.
- class and whole school assemblies.
- choir performances.
- opportunities linked to community events.
- listening to live and recorded music.
- visiting musicians and musical workshops where opportunities arise.
- celebrating pupils' individual musical achievements:
- various musical 'wellbeing' activities, e.g. drumming, samba, etc.

Performance opportunities are valued because they help pupils develop **confidence, resilience, teamwork and a sense of achievement**, while providing memorable experiences beyond the taught curriculum.

We will continue to develop opportunities for pupils to **experience live music**, both within school and through engagement with musicians and external organisations.

Music Development Priorities

During 2026–2027, Unsworth Primary School will continue to strengthen our music provision.

1. Strengthen curriculum progression

Ensure the music curriculum identifies clearly what pupils should **know, remember and be able to do** from EYFS to Year 6, with clear progression in musical knowledge, vocabulary and practical skills.

2. Develop confidence in teaching music

Provide support and professional development to ensure teachers are confident in delivering music, particularly in areas such as **composition, improvisation, notation and instrumental work**.

3. Strengthen assessment

Further develop a manageable approach to assessment so that teachers and the subject leader can identify how well pupils are learning the intended music curriculum and use this information to inform future teaching.

4. Develop musical experiences

Increase opportunities for pupils to **listen to and experience high-quality live music**, including visiting performers, workshops and links with the wider community.

5. Celebrate a diverse musical heritage

Continue to develop pupils' experience of music from **different cultures, traditions, historical periods and musical genres**.

6. Develop performance opportunities

Build further opportunities for pupils to sing, play and perform individually and collectively, including through choir, assemblies, concerts and community events such as Young Voices.

7. Strengthen inclusion

Monitor participation to ensure that **pupils with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and other vulnerable groups** can access and benefit from the school's curriculum and extra-curricular music offer.

8. Develop enrichment and partnerships

Explore opportunities to work alongside the **local Music Hub, secondary schools and external music specialists** to broaden pupils' musical experiences and provide progression routes for pupils with a particular interest or talent in music.

Our ambition is for every child leaving Unsworth Primary School to have experienced the **joy of music** through singing, listening, composing, playing and performing.

We want pupils to develop the confidence to express themselves musically, appreciate music from a wide range of traditions and cultures, and recognise that music can be something they continue to enjoy and participate in throughout their lives.