Music development plan summary: Gawsworth Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	17/09/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	17/09/2027
Name of the school music lead	Helen Brough
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lisa Wainwright
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for Life

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

Intent

Our Music curriculum is designed for all; it is intended to inspire creativity, teamwork, resilience, but most of all, a passion for music. Music is one of the pillars of our curriculum at Gawsworth Primary School and it is our firm belief that learning all aspects of music should be central to our school and its values and should be accessible for all pupils: regardless of individual circumstances.

We have constructed our curriculum based on key learning objectives (which have been derived from the national curriculum). At Gawsworth, we recognise that music takes so many different forms, and as such, we intend for pupils to develop skills in:

- Playing music in both solos and ensembles
- Learning musical notation: including note lengths, pitches and understanding musical staves
- Composing basic music – in the style of a range of genres

- Listening to music in detail, and being able to identify and analyse features of it
- Understanding musical contexts and how this affects the style of a musical genre
- Studying musical history and its development
- Knowing and applying some of the key elements of music

This ensures that a wide-range of skills are developed within curricular music time, and that pupils are able to take not just knowledge and understanding, but a love for music, into the next stage of their education.

Adaptations and reasonable adjustments are made to our curriculum where necessary to support additional needs, as they are in all other foundation subjects. At Gawsworth Primary School, we are determined that pupils will achieve the best outcome possible, whatever their needs may be, and we retain the highest aspirations for all of our pupils.

Implementation & Impact

Music is taught for at least one hour a week by class teachers. Class teachers have access to a wide range of advice and detail on how the curriculum should be taught, and key documents are in place to ensure that formative assessment can take place within the classroom.

The teaching of music is monitored from EYFS to Year 6, through learning walks, work scrutiny, and pupil voice feedback: these findings are evaluated and used to inform the subject review plan for the next year. We are rigorous in evaluating and improving the music experience for our pupils, therefore, monitoring the quality of teaching and pupil experience is of great importance to us.

In our commitment to delivering high-quality music education, we have effectively leveraged the expertise of our Trust and feeder school staff to design and implement engaging units of lessons. This collaborative approach not only enriches our pupil's learning experiences with top-tier instruction but also serves as vital continuing professional development (CPD) for our staff. By observing these exemplary teaching practices, our educators are empowered to integrate innovative techniques into their own classrooms, enhancing their professional growth and the overall quality of music education within our school community.

Part B: Co-curricular music

As a school, we have Music for Life and Love Music Trust tutors who come into school in order to provide additional (not funded by school) lessons for pupils who wish to pay to learn an instrument. This is a fantastic opportunity for all who take it, as it supports the development of a skill that they will treasure for the rest of their life: the ability to play an instrument. We currently offer guitar, keyboard, piano, brass and violin lessons: but this is subject to change upon demand. This greatly supports our class learning of music,

because although we are committed to inspiring passion for music and instruments, we do not have access to the resources or tutelage, as a whole class, that individual lessons have.

We also have in place, a whole-class wider opportunities scheme. This is run by Love Music Trust (LMT). We work in partnership with them to provide our whole-class wider opportunities scheme: this means that each class, at some point in their time in KS2, will have the chance to have whole-class brass instrument lessons. This is fully funded by the school and is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop the ability to play a brass instrument.

We believe that both opportunities strongly support our curriculum music provision, and offering the best musical opportunity possible for all of our pupils.

There are also several extra-curricular activities regarding music. Choir is open to all pupils in Years 2-6 and is run on a Thursday after school by Mrs Brough. This is an enriching experience, with opportunities to develop singing skills, have fun, and take part in different events across the year, such as Young Voices. Every year, our choir takes part in the Young Voices concert in Manchester, in which thousands of children from various primary schools participate.

Part C: Musical Experiences

It is our intention to ensure that our young people not only have access to curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for music; but also that they have access to high-quality musical experiences, which have the potential to develop a passion for music.

We encourage performance as a school. Our choir, which is accessible to all, performs regularly. We also offer the chance for those who learn instruments privately, or through Music for Life, to play their instruments at certain occasions such as for visitors, within assemblies and at awards ceremonies.

In school, there is a devoted music room – this allows space for Music for Life individual lessons, but also group rehearsal and individual practice.

Finally, we further enrich pupil's musical learning through in-school external performances. This takes place through musicians coming into school, and performing to our pupils. We believe that this is key to the teaching of music: that our pupils can experience high- quality live music and how it is played – and this often inspires pupils to begin learning an instrument themselves.

We are also fortunate to offer a fantastic experience as a result of the whole-class instrument lessons referenced in Part B; at the end of the year, a KS2 class has the opportunity to play with the Halle orchestra as part of a city-wide scheme to enhance cultural capital opportunities for our pupils and to inspire them for the future.

Future Priorities

Our short-term (this year) aims consist of:

- Continuing to enhance our pupils' musical experiences:
- Embedding and refining the music curriculum fully into school life;
- Ensuring progress is clearly recorded using video/audio or written notes and the music lead works closely with class teachers to monitor and support this process.
- Ensure there are greater opportunities for pupils to self and peer assess their work planned into lessons;
- Ensure that the new curriculum shows clearly all genres of music; and that it exposes pupils to various origins and contexts of musical styles;
- Developing pupils' knowledge of musical notation, so they are well-equipped for music at KS3.

Our long-term (next three years) aims consist of:

- Raising the profile of music across the school, so that it is a school-wide priority, and has cross-curricular links with other subjects;
- Developing a formal assessment and progress tracking system for music in KS2;
- Continuing to review and evaluate the quality of the music curriculum across the school through book scrutiny, learning walks, pupil voice and pupil performance;
- Ensuring pupils have opportunities to listen to and engage with music from a wide variety of different cultures, traditions and eras;
- Developing strong music links with our trust schools with opportunities to share resources, expertise and to organise joint events.