

Music Development Plan Summary: Highfields Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 to 2027
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026, then annually before the start of each academic year
Name of the school music lead	Nicola Pickin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs S. Garratt, Headteacher
Name of local music hub	Black Country Music Hub, with SIPS Music & Arts Service supporting Sandwell schools
Other music education organisations or partners	SIPS Music & Arts Service, Sandwell Music Service, Rocksteady Music School, Young Voices, Music Mark

Highfields Primary School is a two-form entry primary school for children aged 4 to 11, welcoming approximately 470 pupils from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. The school's wider curriculum is knowledge-rich, ambitious and full of exciting learning opportunities.

The aim of music at Highfields is to provide an inclusive, accessible and enjoyable music education that ignites a passion for music, develops musical confidence, fosters creativity, promotes cultural understanding and enables every child to flourish.

Part A: Curriculum music

This section explains what we teach in lesson time, how pupils build musical knowledge and skills, and how curriculum music supports progression from EYFS to Year 6.

At Highfields, music is taught through a carefully planned, progressive curriculum. Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014) and meets the expectations of the Model Music Curriculum (2021). Our intention is that pupils follow a sequential learning journey which builds on prior knowledge and skills, with learning organised around **performing, composing, and listening and appraising**.

Music is part of the school's broad and balanced curriculum. Pupils experience a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions, helping them to explore music from the United Kingdom and across the world, as well as music from different historical periods and cultures.

Curriculum entitlement

Highfields will work towards ensuring that pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 receive regular, timetabled curriculum music across the school year.

Music learning at Highfields includes:

Phase	Curriculum focus
EYFS	Singing in groups and individually, matching pitch and melody, call and response songs, clapping rhythms and beginning to play instruments.
Key Stage 1	Singing songs, chants and rhymes; developing pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo and dynamics; using tuned and untuned percussion; responding to music; beginning to use graphic notation.
Year 3	Whole-class trumpet learning delivered through Sandwell Music Service / SIPS provision, with pupils developing instrumental technique, notation, rhythm, pitch and ensemble skills.
Years 4 to 6	Further development of singing, composition, notation, ensemble work, tuned and untuned percussion, glockenspiels, keyboards or tablets, listening, appraisal, improvisation, riffs, ostinatos, harmony and musical structure.

Singing, playing and composing

Pupils are taught to use their voices expressively and creatively, sing in unison and in parts, perform in ensembles, improvise, compose and evaluate their own work. In Key Stage 2, pupils develop more advanced skills such as reading staff notation, performing rhythmic scores, composing melodic phrases, using pentatonic scales, creating riffs and layering musical ideas.

Year 3 pupils all learn to play the trumpet, and pupils have the opportunity to continue learning a brass instrument in Years 4, 5 and 6 through SIPS provision if families choose to access further lessons.

Resources and technology

The curriculum uses a range of classroom instruments and musical resources, including tuned and untuned percussion, chime bars, glockenspiels, boomwhackers, trumpets, online resources, music technology and platforms such as Sing Up, BBC Ten Pieces and Chrome Music Lab where appropriate.

Inclusion and assessment

Music should be inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for all pupils, regardless of background or prior experience. Progress is monitored through regular assessment and performances, with assessment data recorded on Insight.

The school will continue to ensure that pupils with SEND, pupils eligible for Pupil Premium, and pupils who face barriers to music participation are supported to access curriculum and wider music opportunities.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This section explains opportunities for pupils to sing, play and make progress in music beyond normal lesson time, including choirs, bands, ensembles and instrumental tuition.

Highfields has a strong foundation for co-curricular music. All Year 3 pupils learn trumpet, Rocksteady provides optional music lessons and year group rock bands, we have outside agencies who provide optional ukelele and drumming lessons and our school has a large choir which has performed at venues including Birmingham Symphony Hall, West Bromwich Town Hall and the BP Pulse Arena.

Current co-curricular provision

Opportunity	Description
Young Voices Choir	Each year, choir takes part in the annual Young Voices concert at the BP Pulse Arena, giving children experience of singing as part of a large choir in a major arena setting. During other terms, choir performs in other concerts and has previously been invited to represent Sandwell at a community event at Birmingham Symphony Hall.
Rocksteady bands	Optional Rocksteady lessons support pupils to play as part of year group rock bands.
Further instrumental provision	Pupils can choose to join optional ukelele, guitar and drumming lessons.
Brass continuation	Pupils who complete Year 3 trumpet learning can continue brass learning in Years 4, 5 and 6 where families access SIPS lessons.
School performances and assemblies	Pupils have opportunities to perform in concerts, assemblies and school events.

Highfields has been performing at Young Voices for numerous years, and have seen huge benefits for children in terms of self-belief, motivation, confidence and communication.

Development priorities for co-curricular music

During 2026 to 2027, Highfields will:

1. Promote continuation routes after Year 3 trumpet lessons so that more pupils continue learning an instrument in Years 4, 5 and 6.
2. Signpost families to SIPS Music Centre ensembles, including free ensemble opportunities where available.
3. Continue to promote Young Voices and Rocksteady participation.
4. Encourage children to try other instrumental lessons: guitar, ukelele, drums.
5. Review financial barriers to participation and consider how Pupil Premium, school support or local hub support can help pupils access tuition, ensembles and instrument hire.

Part C: Musical experiences

This section explains how pupils experience live music, perform to others and take part in musical events in school and beyond.

The National Plan for Music Education encourages schools to provide at least one concert or musical show each term and to ensure that all primary pupils experience live music as an audience member at least once a year.

At Highfields, music is embedded across school life. We have regular singing assemblies, extra-curricular music clubs, opportunities to perform in concerts and assemblies, and participation in local and national music events such as Young Voices.

Current musical experiences

Highfields pupils experience music through:

Experience	Description
Singing assemblies	Regular opportunities to sing together as a school community.
Class and year group performances	Opportunities to perform in assemblies, curriculum celebrations and school events.
Young Voices	Large-scale choir performance opportunity.
Rocksteady performances	Band-based performance opportunities for pupils taking part.
Curriculum performances	Pupils perform compositions, ensemble pieces and class work as part of music lessons.
Local and national music events	Participation in events such as Young Voices and work with local music organisations.
Visitors to our school	We have had outside agencies come in to our school and provide African drumming workshops, steel pan workshops, string ensemble concerts, body percussion workshops and singing workshops.

Development priorities for musical experiences

During 2026 to 2027, Highfields will:

1. Map existing performances across the school year to ensure every year group has regular opportunities to perform.
2. Plan at least one live music experience for all pupils each academic year, either in school, through the Black Country Music Hub / SIPS, through visiting musicians, or through visits to external performances.
3. Continue to use assemblies, curriculum events and concerts to celebrate music learning.

4. Increase opportunities for pupils to hear a wider range of music, including classical, contemporary, world music, local music traditions, brass, vocal, rock and pop, and music linked to pupils' cultures and interests.
5. Use pupil voice to review which musical experiences pupils value and which additional styles, instruments or events they would like to explore.

In the future

Highfields will continue to develop music provision so that every child can learn to sing, play, create, perform, listen and progress. The National Plan for Music Education states that schools should aim high, with music provision built around curriculum music, instrumental and vocal learning, ensemble membership, and musical events and opportunities.

2026 to 2027 action plan

Priority	Action	Intended impact
Curriculum time	Ensure curriculum music is regular, progressive and all pupils in all year groups have equal opportunities to access the subject.	Pupils receive a consistent music entitlement across the school year.
Curriculum progression	Review the published music curriculum overview to ensure progression from EYFS to Year 6 is clear for singing, performing, composing, listening, appraisal and notation.	Staff, pupils and families can see how musical knowledge and skills build over time.
Ensemble development	Maintain the choir and Rocksteady bands, and develop further opportunities for children to perform their class ensemble work to their peers.	Pupils have more opportunities to play and sing with others beyond lessons.
Live music	Schedule at least one live music experience per pupil per year. Use local hub opportunities, visiting musicians, local performances and digital live-performance resources where needed.	All pupils experience live music as audience members.
Inclusion	Review participation in choir, Rocksteady, instrumental lessons and performances by year group, gender, SEND, disadvantaged pupils and other groups. Remove barriers wherever possible.	Music opportunities are inclusive and accessible for all pupils.
Staff development	Use SIPS / Black Country Music Hub CPD, local lead schools and staff sharing to support confidence in music teaching.	Staff feel more confident delivering high-quality curriculum music.

Further information

Parents and carers can find more information through:

- Highfields Primary School curriculum information, including the school's music curriculum and curriculum statement.
- Highfields Young Voices Choir information.
- SIPS Music & Arts Service for Sandwell instrumental lessons, ensembles and school music support.
- Black Country Music Hub opportunities across Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

The Black Country Music Hub is one of the 43 music hubs in the national programme. Dudley Council is the lead organisation and works with Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and SIPS Music and Education Service in Sandwell to coordinate music education across the region.