

Music development plan summary: Juniper Hill School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Clare Miller
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Cara Duhan / Max Martin
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time and how much time is spent teaching music.

The curriculum for each year group is published here:

<https://www.juniperhill.bucks.sch.uk/year-groups/>

Our music curriculum is unique to Juniper Hill and has been devised by our specialist music teacher who is also the music subject leader. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of resources including Charanga, Music Express and Ocarina Workshop as well as bespoke units of work written by the subject leader.

The music knowledge and skills document and music policy are published here:

<https://www.juniperhill.bucks.sch.uk/music/>

In Key Stages 1 and 2, children receive a 45-60 minute music lesson every week in their classes and sing every week in a whole school assembly.

The music curriculum at Juniper Hill follows the national curriculum statutory programme of study and is also informed by the model music curriculum non-statutory

guidance for teaching music. Pupils learn to listen to, perform, improvise, compose and evaluate music. The majority of lesson time is spent in practical music making, through singing and/or playing instruments.

Pupils learn to sing in all year groups and singing is included in almost all music lessons at Juniper Hill.

Every year group learns to play the djembe drums for one half term each year.

In reception, children also have opportunities to play other percussion instruments.

In years 1-3, children have opportunities to play percussion instruments and glockenspiels.

In years 4-6, children continue to use percussion instruments and glockenspiels in some units of work, and they also have the opportunity to participate in whole-class practical musicianship using ocarinas.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choir, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Outside of music curriculum lesson time, Juniper Hill offers one-to-one and/or small group tuition with peripatetic teachers. The instruments currently on offer include piano, woodwind, guitar, ukulele and drum kit. Families are expected to pay for peripatetic music lessons and the costs are set by the individual music teachers. The school is able to consider subsidising individual / group music lessons in particular circumstances.

The school is committed to providing a purposeful, positive learning environment for peripatetic music lessons. The PTA have supported the school to pay for a new intervention cabin, which has now been open for one year. This has been built on the playground. It is a fantastic space for our visiting peripatetic teachers to deliver individual and small group instrumental lessons, and also provides space for rehearsals and individual practice.

The Juniper School Choir is an after-school club for Key Stage Two that runs for part of the school year. The choir usually sings at a variety of Christmas events within school and the local community. For the past four years in the spring term, the choir has alternated between joining with Buckinghamshire Music Trust to participate in Echoes (a biannual concert held at the Royal Albert Hall) or in Energize (a biannual music and dance festival held at the Wycombe Swan, a local theatre) and we hope to continue these partnerships. There is no charge to join the choir for our Christmas events; however, we do charge transport costs if coach travel is required for other external events. The school is able to consider subsidising this in particular circumstances.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and professional concerts.

EYFS: Children perform a variety of songs as part of their Christmas assembly.

KS1: Children perform songs and dances in their Christmas nativity.

KS2: Children sing in their Christmas concerts. For the last two years, a band has accompanied the children singing carols. The children perform in one other concert, held in the summer term each year. In these concerts, children also play instruments as whole classes (for example, glockenspiel, ocarina and djembe) and individuals also have the opportunity to perform on instruments they have been learning, for example, the piano, the violin, the recorder, the flute and the guitar. Year 6 perform as a whole year group and in small groups in their leavers' assembly.

Whole School: Children sing together in a weekly whole school assembly, which regularly includes BSL. They sing for their parents, carers and other members of the Juniper community at the harvest assemblies.

For each of the concerts, shows and performances we organise for parents, carers and members of the community to come to watch on the school site, we invite the rest of the school children who are not performing to watch the final rehearsal.

Many of our performance opportunities occur during the school day, and as such, all children from the relevant year groups are included in the performance. For our evening events, all children from the relevant year groups are invited to perform.

We have a small group of individuals who play the piano at the start and end of our whole school assemblies. The children organise the rota themselves and anyone is able to join the rota if they would like to share what they can play on an instrument with the rest of the school.

Bucks Music Trust organises a school tour in the summer term, during which their professional musicians visit to hold concerts at a variety of schools in Buckinghamshire. We were lucky to be chosen to be visited in summer 2024 and hope to take this opportunity again if it arises in future.

In 2024 and 2025, M&M productions visited our school to perform pantomimes for our children. The PTA will often pay for or subsidise the performances. Our local secondary school sometimes invites some of our older children to watch a performance of their school musical.

Some of our members of staff are talented musicians who have performed for the children in their curriculum lessons on instruments including the piano, the violin and the bodhran.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

We are going to stage our first Juniper Hill School production in the spring term of 2026. This will be open to children in years 4, 5 and 6 as an after school activity.

We are hoping to offer additional lessons on a wider variety of instruments and possibly voice in the coming academic years.

We do not currently have a school ensemble, band or group. We are considering our options for when and how we may be able to set one up.

Further information (optional)

The school's local music hub is Buckinghamshire Music Trust. Their website can be found here: www.bucksmusic.org

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.