

Music development plan summary: Juniper Hill School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Cara Duhan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Cara Duhan
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 a specialist music teacher. Our curriculum incorporates a variety of resources including Charanga, Music Express and Ocarina Workshop as well as some bespoke units of work written by a specialist music teacher previously employed by the school.

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.

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 two years. 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.

In the 2025-26 academic year, the school launched Production Club after school club. In this club, children sang, danced and acted in the musical Shakespeare Rocks! This was open to all children in years 4, 5 and 6 and auditions were held for the leading roles. Production Club will be running again in the 2026-27 academic year.

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 five 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. Children sing for their parents, carers and other members of the Juniper community at their harvest assemblies.

KS2: Children sing in their Christmas concerts. For the last three years, a band has accompanied the children singing carols. Year 6 perform as a whole year group and in small groups in their leavers' performance evening. Children sing for their parents, carers and other members of the Juniper community at their 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 usually 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 2026 and hope to take this opportunity again if it arises in future.

For the last three years, M&M productions have 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 hold our first Juniper Hill Recital Evening in the summer term of 2026. This will be an opportunity for all those children who play instruments individually or in groups to showcase their talents.

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.