

Music development plan summary: Coleridge Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 25 – July 26
Date this summary was published	September 25
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 26
Name of the school music lead	Martin Heidensohn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Louise Foulkes (Deputy Head)
Name of local music hub	Haringey Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	English Touring Opera (ETO)

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, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Music is an integral part of everyday life and learning at Coleridge. We believe passionately in the importance of giving all our children every possible opportunity to develop their love, enjoyment and understanding of music. As well as the intrinsic value of musicality, its important contribution to children's phonological awareness, language development and reading skills, and its transformative power in personal wellbeing and emotional development, all lie at the heart of our commitment to providing an excellent musical learning experience for our children.

Our music curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that, each year, children build their musical understanding and skills. This is centred around four key areas of learning:

- Singing
- Listening and Responding
- Instrumental Playing and Performing
- Composing and Improvising

Our sequenced approach, whereby children regularly practise and improve their skills in these four activities, enables them to expand their understanding of the eight key elements, or building blocks, of musical understanding:

- Pitch – how high or low notes are; how big the ‘jumps’ are between notes
- Duration – pulse (a regular beat), rhythms, long and short sounds
- Texture – single sounds or layers of sounds played together
- Timbre (*tarm-br*) – describing the different qualities of sounds
- Dynamics – from loud to quiet to silence
- Tempo – speed or pace of music and how it changes
- Structure – how music is arranged, e.g. verse and chorus, call and response
- Notation – how music is represented in written or picture form

This deepened understanding in turn progressively improves their skills in singing, listening, playing, improvising and composing.

You can find a more detailed breakdown of our music curriculum [here](#).

All classes receive one hour of music every other week. In addition to this, our curriculum is designed to ensure singing lies at the heart of music at Coleridge. From the Early Years through to Year 6, children learn and perform songs in class singing sessions, as part of their music curriculum lessons, and in weekly singing assemblies. Singing assemblies take place in phase groups (Reception, Key Stage 1, Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2), ensuring that children get to progress, both in their singing skills and in the songs that they learn.

Furthermore, children have the opportunity to experiment, play, improvise and compose using both pitched and unpitched percussion instruments in their regular class music lessons. All children in Year 3 also learn the ukulele in weekly whole class curriculum lessons - this has recently been extended from one term to now cover the whole academic year. In addition to their lessons at school, children are given online resources to support them with practising at home. Ukuleles are loaned for free to our Pupil Premium children.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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

Through Haringey Music Service, we offer individual instrumental lessons. Currently we have children taking regular lessons in recorder, guitar, trumpet, flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, cello, piano and French horn, with further instrumental options on offer, subject to availability and sufficient demand. Children who have been learning an instrument for a year or more can join our weekly Thursday morning orchestra, and our annual school play gives our more proficient instrumental players the chance to take part in its accompanying band.

Our Infant and Junior Choirs are open to all children from Year 2 upwards and meet to rehearse weekly. There is no cost to parents.

We regularly invite in professional musicians to give workshops, talks and performances. Recent ones have included African drumming, rap therapy and an electric violin performance by a former pupil who is a member of the National Youth Orchestra.

Part C: Musical events and performances

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

Children's own performances

The transformative power of music, and particularly collective singing, is well-known, and this very much informs the emphasis we place on singing and music-making. In addition to weekly singing assemblies, we find regular opportunities for several year groups, or the whole school, to learn the same song. We then come together to perform and record for each other, posting the recordings on our website for children, their families and the whole school community to listen to at home. Over the past couple of years, the whole school have celebrated Black History Month, LGBTQ+ Pride, and our annual Cultures of Coleridge events with performances and recordings of *Feeling Good*, *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel (To Be Free)*, *Lean on Me*, *(Something Inside) So Strong*, *We Are Family*, *We're all Amazing* and *Blinded by your Grace (Part 2)*.

The annual school play provides further choir, solo singing and instrumental playing opportunities for all children in Year 6 to perform musically at the end of the autumn term.

Both our choirs perform each year at our Winter Concert in December, and the Junior Choir regularly performs at Crouch End Festival and other local events, as well giving end of term performances at school. The Junior Choir has also performed at Alexandra Palace, the O2 and the Royal Albert Hall.

The school orchestra gives end of year performances in the summer term. Children learning guitar also give a group recital in the summer.

Professional concerts

We are an ETO (English Touring Opera) Partner School, taking part in their new initiative to track children's engagement with their operas. Last year the company came in to perform their new work *The Vanishing Forest* for all Key Stage 2 children and in previous years they have also performed operas for Reception and Key Stage 1.

Years 2 and 5 regularly visit the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican to see them perform. This also often involves the children practising one or more songs to sing with the orchestra, and learning about some of the pieces in their music curriculum lessons prior to the concert.

In the future

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

- Year 3 children will be given further online resources to support them with practising ukulele at home.
- Each Year 3 class will give an end of year ukulele performance as the culmination of their year's ukulele learning.
- As part of our continuing relationship as an ETO Partner School, the English Touring Opera will be performing a new production in April 2026 for all children in Key Stage 2.
- Year 5 have applied to the LSO for tickets to see the orchestra perform in their spring term KS2 concert at the Barbican.
- Each year group will give at least one instrumental performance to other children in the school as part of their music curriculum learning.
- Key Stage 1 year groups are all taking part in class singing and composition workshops with visiting tutor Aga Seguro. (Year 2 workshops taking place 20/11/25, Year 1 date tbc).
- Yes guitarist Steve Howe (grandparent of a Year 3 pupil) will be giving a performance and talk for Years 3 and 4 in the spring term.
- All children will take part in another whole school song performance and recording in the spring term, centred around the theme of resilience (the school's focus core value for the academic year).

Further information (optional)

We have close links and a strong relationship with Haringey Music Service (HMS) itself, and with other schools in the local Primary Music Network (PMN) that it facilitates. The Network schools meet up termly to share good practice and support each other. Our music lead has collaborated closely with HMS and other PMN schools on both our curriculum and our extra-curricular provision. HMS provides free music CPD for both ECTs and experienced teachers – each year, several of our teachers take part in this training to support and develop their practice.