



Waterton
Academy Trust

Music Development Plan

Ackworth Mill Dam

2024 - 2025



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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	30 th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Samantha Thompson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Wakefield
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Link with Opera North is currently in development

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas - curriculum music, extra-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.

The curriculum for music is published on our school website with a long term plan for each year group showing which musical units are taught, a medium term plan for each year group for each term showing the sequencing of this information during each unit and a 'subject on a page' document giving additional information about our music teaching. These can all be found here. [Music Curriculum Overview](#). The MTP documents also include information about how we adapt our music curriculum to ensure full access for all children, whatever their additional need or ability.

On average, one hour per week is dedicated to curriculum music teaching and learning. This includes: a taught whole class lesson, singing and listening activities outside of this timetabled session such as during assemblies and additional singing and playing when required for performances.

Our school curriculum includes elements from the Charagha Model Music Curriculum, published music programmes, whole class instrument tuition and, in year 5 each year, a more in depth focus on a specific genre or style of music. During 2024-25 this is on Opera and we are beginning to develop school links with Opera North to support this. Where published music programmes are used, these are linked to other areas of the curriculum as far as possible (for example Viking sagas and songs in year 4 to link to a history unit of work). This helps to improve retention and strengthen engagement across the curriculum.

During the class music lessons we teach a balance of singing, listening and responding, composing and improvising, and performance. Singing is a consistent feature in music lessons throughout the whole school. This is also linked to weekly singing assemblies and regular performances. Listening is also a consistent feature and our listening curriculum has been mapped to show progression within the music lessons and music listened to during assemblies. In EYFS children have opportunities to explore sound and enjoy mainly untuned percussion instruments. In KS1 this range is extended to include some simple tuned percussion instruments such as boomwhackers and chime bars within a defined range (pentatonic scale). In KS2 all children are taught to play the descant recorder as part of their music lessons and this teaching progresses throughout KS2. This includes reading treble clef musical notation.

Once each year we hold a whole school focus week and periodically this has a music element. For example, in 2022-23 we held a multi cultural arts week and as part of this children sang, listened, watched and took part in performances of a range of music from different cultures.

We work closely with our local music hub and with an independent peripatetic music teacher. We are also currently developing a partnership with Opera North.

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.

At Mill Dam School we offer a wide range of extra curricular music opportunities. These include choir, a range of peripatetic instrument lessons, band club and a range of performance opportunities.

Children from year 1 upwards are able to attend instrumental lessons led by staff from Wakefield Music Service, an independent music teacher and teachers from within school. These lessons are either in small groups or as individuals. During 2024-25 these include:

- Guitar
- Piano
- Woodwind (flute and clarinet)
- Strings (violin and cello)
- Drums
- Brass (trumpet, trombone and tuba)
- Ukelele

All children who have musical instrument tuition are invited to join the school band club. All children who have instrument tuition are able to perform at our annual music evening concert and to support the choir where possible. Children who access their lessons through the Wakefield Music Hub are able to use loan instruments and participate in additional weekend and holiday groups and

activities run by the music service. Within all of the peripatetic lessons children can work towards grades including ABRSM and Rockschool.

From Year 3 upwards children may join the school choir. This group rehearses weekly throughout the school year and performs at many different events.

During 2023-24 we performed at:

- School harvest festivals
- School Christmas Concerts
- School music evening concert
- Young Voices at Sheffield Arena
- Local combined schools Carol Concert
- Local combined schools Easter Service
- Local community fundraising concert evening.
- Summer performances

Individual and small group instrument lessons (excluding whole class recorder tuition) are chargeable either through the music service or the independent music teacher. Concessions are in place to allow access for all children and PPG funding is used to ensure that access for all is maintained.

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 trips to professional concerts.

Singing assemblies take place weekly and children learn to sing a range of traditional and modern songs. These include songs relating to seasons and festivals, hymns and songs to promote PSHE. Children also learn to sing a range of tempos and rhythms and sing songs with musical devices such as rounds and ostinatos. All assemblies include an element of listening to music and the progression for this has been planned into three annual cycles. Cycle one includes a wide range of different modern genres of music such as jazz, folk, hip hop etc.; cycle two consists of a chronological journey through musical styles from early music to modern music; cycle three consists of a in depth study of the initial BBC ten pieces compositions. Children who stay at Mill Dam throughout their primary education will revisit each of these twice allowing for a deeper level of knowledge and understanding to develop.

There are regular opportunities for children to perform across the school year. All children perform musical elements or songs in the Harvest festivals, Christmas concerts and assemblies and Easter assemblies. In addition to this, children in choir perform at local school events in Church at Christmas and Easter, community charity events organised by Ackworth Independent School during the summer term and the annual Young Voices concert at Sheffield Arena. Children who have instrumental lessons and choir also perform at our annual music concert. Our year six children also produce and perform a leavers' show including musical numbers.

All children can take part in the annual trust performance 'Waterton's Got Talent'. We hold class auditions for this and have a performance of each class's winning act for children to choose our representative. This isn't always a musical act but there are always musical acts within the performance and whole group songs at the beginning and end of the performance.

One half term in year five is set aside for an in depth study of a style or genre of music. During 2024-25 the focus of this is opera and we are currently establishing links with Opera North to support this. Part of this will include a visit to Leeds Grand Theatre to see a school performance of The Magic Flute. We regularly arrange for music teachers from Wakefield Music Hub to perform in assemblies. Each year a pantomime performance, which includes music, is staged in school using a local performance company.

We have a staff band within our Multi Academy Trust, many members of whom are staff at Mill Dam School. These staff have performed to the children in assemblies and as part of our annual music concert and Waterton's Got Talent. This provides another opportunity for the children to hear live music and is also aspirational for them to see what we can play as amateur musicians and so what they can achieve if they continue with music lessons.

In the Future

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

We are beginning the process of working towards artsmark accreditation and so will be developing our music provision further in subsequent years as we work towards this. We would like to establish a wider range of partnerships to support this.

Further Information (Optional)