

Music development plan summary: Chawson First School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kathryn Trevor
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nicola Peck
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts

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.

At Chawson First School, we use Charanga as our main teaching tool which follows a spiral curriculum. We follow the Original Scheme that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and it is delivered either by the class teacher or teaching assistant. Children currently receive at least a fortnightly class music lesson. In addition to this musical learning, children attend assemblies (three times a week) where they listen to a wide range of musical repertoire as suggested in the Model Music Curriculum with a different termly focus. Children also participate in a key stage singing assembly (3 weeks out of 4).

In line with the Charanga Scheme (Original Scheme), children are taught to sing properly, appraise a range of music, improvise, compose and perform music using mainly glockenspiels but also recorders and unpitched instruments. Children in Year 4 receive a term of specialist music tuition from Severn Arts (one hour per week for a term) which culminates in an end of term concert where the children perform together to an audience. The instrument currently taught is the ukulele.

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 Chawson First School, we currently offer small-group lessons on guitar and keyboard to children in Key Stage Two. These lessons are optional and funded by parents/carers and are taught by specialist teachers from Severn Arts. The music teachers have taught at Chawson for several years and this strong relationship ensures continuity of teaching for our children, aiding both progress and enjoyment. These children have regular opportunities to perform during assemblies and at the end of each academic year, perform during an assembly which their parents/carers are invited to. When ready, children are encouraged to work towards music medals offered by ABRSM.

We also run two thriving choirs- one for children in Key Stage One and one for children in Key Stage Two. These take place during lunchtimes, are led by the school music lead and are open to any child in Key Stage One or Two, regardless of singing ability.

We work closely with our local music hub, Severn Arts, to ensure we can offer the best possible music opportunities for our children. Further information about Severn Arts can be found on their website <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/Pages/Category/music-education>.

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.

Children at Chawson First School participate in singing assemblies. Music and singing is incorporated into all assemblies with opportunities for listening to a range of music at the beginning and end of each assembly and with singing at the end of each assembly. We have whole school events at significant times in the year where each year group performs for the school. These events include Harvest Festival and a Christmas Carol service. Each year group puts on a production at various points in the year, including a Nativity play from Reception and a Leaver's Assembly from Year 4. These are performed to the rest of the school and also performed to parents and carers. The school choirs also have the opportunity to perform to the school at regular points in the year. Key Stage 2 choir have attended the Big Sing event, organised and run by Severn Arts, for the past three years. This provides an opportunity for the children to sing alongside hundreds of other local children in an arena/theatre setting and with a live band. A hugely successful school fundraiser was organised last year in order to cover the full cost of the trip for the choir. This involved singing performances from both

key stage choirs and also a cake sale. Children in Reception take part in an Early Years Music Festival that is organised by Severn Arts and involves schools from the local area getting together to sing songs and perform together with a chosen theme. There is a small fee per child to attend this and it has been held at our school for a number of years. When possible, musicians are invited into school to perform to the children to give them more experience of high-quality live music. In previous years, we have had a pianist and trumpet player as well as a double bass player. This year, we had a performance on the dohl drum by one of our Year 4 students. We had another successful Arts Week this year (October 2024) with the theme being 'Around the World in 96 hours'. Every child in school was involved in the week with our Arts Ministers assisting with the planning and delivering the showcase of work at the end of the week.

In the future

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

- Continue to make full use of Charanga to further develop our teaching of music in order to deliver the best possible music education to our pupils, ensuring that each step of the unit is taught.
- Ensure that each year group has an opportunity to perform to an audience at least once a term by using singing and performance assembly time.
- Increase opportunities for all pupils to experience live music performances e.g. visits from local secondary school bands and ensembles, asking if any musicians in the school community etc...
- Look at possibilities for running more ensembles in school.

Further information

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.

Severn Arts is our local music hub and more information can be found on their website <https://www.severnarts.org.uk/>

We use the Original Charanga Scheme to support our music teaching <https://charanga.com/site/>