

Music development plan summary: Yew Tree Community School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	5 th November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Shereena Wynter
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Shereena Wynter
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

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.

At Yew Tree Community School, we are committed to delivering a high-quality, progressive music curriculum that develops key musical skills, fosters creativity, and instils a lifelong appreciation for music. We use the Charanga Scheme of Work to support the delivery of our music curriculum across all year groups. This comprehensive programme ensures that children regularly practise and improve a broad range of musical skills in lessons, including:

- Listening and appraising
- Singing and vocal development
- Playing tuned and untuned instruments
- Improvising and composing music
- Performing and evaluating

The Charanga scheme allows for continuity and progression from Early Years through to Year 6, enabling children to revisit and build on prior learning in a structured and engaging way.

Instrumental Progression and Specialist Teaching

To enhance our curriculum offer, children in Years 4 and 5 receive weekly instrumental lessons from professional music specialists provided by Services for Education. During these sessions, pupils learn to play the ukulele, building technical and performance skills, as well as fostering a deeper understanding of musical notation and rhythm.

In line with the Charanga Scheme of Work, pupils are introduced to and develop their instrumental skills progressively, with learning carefully matched to their stage of development. This progression ensures that pupils experience a broad range of instruments and steadily develop their technical and musical understanding.

- Reception and Year 1:

Pupils explore a wide range of percussion instruments, developing an understanding of pulse, rhythm, and pitch through practical, hands-on activities and musical play.

- Years 2 and 3:

Pupils begin structured instrumental learning on the glockenspiel, using simple notation to support their understanding of melody, pitch, and ensemble playing.

- Years 4 and 5:

Pupils receive ukulele tuition from instrumental specialists, building their skills in chord playing, strumming patterns, and ensemble performance.

- Year 6:

Pupils extend their instrumental learning through the recorder, with a focus on reading standard notation, developing breath control, pitch accuracy, and performing confidently as part of an ensemble.

Time Allocation for Music Lessons

- EYFS: 1 music lesson per week (40 minutes)
- Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2: 1 music lesson per week (45–60 minutes)

This consistent allocation of curriculum time ensures that all pupils benefit from regular, meaningful access to high-quality music education, supporting both skill development and a lifelong enjoyment of music.

Part B: Co-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.

- **Rocksteady Music School Partnership**

As part of our commitment to enriching the co-curricular music provision, we are delighted to have started a partnership with Rocksteady Music School. Their engaging and inclusive programme brings professional music tuition directly into school, offering pupils across all year groups the opportunity to experience playing in a band setting. Children are grouped into small ensembles and supported by specialist Rocksteady tutors to explore instruments such as electric guitar, keyboard, drums, and vocals.

This initiative not only develops musical skills but also nurtures confidence, teamwork, and creativity. Pupils perform regularly within school, showcasing their progress and celebrating their achievements with peers and families. Rocksteady's approach aligns with our vision to make music accessible and enjoyable for all, regardless of prior experience.

- **After School Music Clubs**

This academic year marks the launch of our after-school music clubs, designed to broaden pupils' access to instrumental learning beyond the classroom. These clubs offer a relaxed and inclusive environment where children can explore a range of instruments not typically covered in curriculum lessons.

The clubs aim to nurture musical curiosity, develop practical skills, and encourage collaborative music-making. They also support pupils in discovering new interests and talents, contributing to a richer and more diverse musical culture within the school.

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 and Celebratory Performances

Phase singing assemblies take place every other week, providing pupils with regular opportunities to sing together, develop vocal confidence, and enjoy shared musical experiences. These assemblies are tailored to each phase, encouraging age-

appropriate repertoire and fostering a sense of musical identity and community across the school.

To mark key festivals and celebration days, such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and World Book Day, year groups prepare and perform songs they have learned, sharing them with one another during these assemblies. These performances promote collaboration, cultural awareness, and pride in musical achievement, while embedding music into the wider life of the school.

Year Group Productions

Across the academic year, each year group from Nursery to Year 6 stages a musical or dramatic production. These performances are shared with other pupils and warmly open to parents and carers, providing a valuable opportunity to celebrate pupils' musical, theatrical, and creative achievements. Productions are thoughtfully linked to curriculum themes and seasonal events, for example, Christmas nativities, historical topics explored through drama, or leavers and graduation celebrations in the summer term.

These experiences support the development of performance skills, confidence, and teamwork, while enriching the cultural life of the school and strengthening community engagement.

Ukulele Showcase Performances

Pupils engaged in peripatetic music lessons have the opportunity to prepare and present ukulele performances twice during the school year. These showcase events are held for the whole school and are warmly open to parents and carers, providing a platform to celebrate pupils' progress and musical development. Through these performances, children demonstrate the skills they have acquired in instrumental technique, rhythm, and ensemble playing, while gaining valuable experience in performing to an audience.

These events contribute to a vibrant musical culture within the school and help foster confidence, pride, and a sense of achievement among participating pupils.

Local Church Carol Performance

Each year, a selected year group has the opportunity to visit the local church to take part in a festive carol performance. This event brings together pupils from different schools in the community to share in the joy of live music. Our pupils not only perform a well-rehearsed carol but also enjoy listening to performances by other schools, fostering a sense of musical appreciation and community spirit.

This experience supports pupils' vocal development, performance confidence, and cultural awareness, while strengthening links between the school and the wider community through shared celebration.

In the future

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

Looking ahead, our school will continue to strengthen and expand its music provision to ensure that every pupil has access to high-quality musical experiences. Our priorities will include:

- **Professional development for teachers:**
We will deliver CPD sessions where needs are identified. These sessions will focus on a range of areas within music education, including effective use of Charanga, and will support the development of teachers' skills and confidence in delivering high-quality music lessons. Particular emphasis will be placed on improvisation, composition, and assessment strategies, ensuring that staff are well equipped to provide engaging and progressive learning experiences.
By investing in professional development, we aim to strengthen the consistency and quality of music teaching across the school. This will contribute to more effective classroom practice and, ultimately, to improved pupil outcomes in music.
- **Music Technology Integration**
As part of our continued development of the music curriculum, we plan to introduce Charanga's YuStudio to Year 6. YuStudio is a child-friendly digital audio workstation (DAW) that enables pupils to compose, edit and arrange music using laptops. This will allow our learners to engage with music in a modern and relevant way, preparing them for future musical opportunities and interests.
To ensure successful implementation, staff training will be delivered prior to its introduction, equipping teachers with the necessary skills and confidence to teach music technology effectively.
- **Broadening Musical Experiences**
We will continue to strengthen links with our local music hub. Beginning this academic year, we aim to gradually introduce a wider range of musical experiences to enrich pupils' cultural and creative development. This will include opportunities to attend live music concerts and other performance-based events, including inviting professional musicians into school. These experiences will complement our curriculum and co-curricular provision, inspiring pupils through exposure to diverse musical genres, professional performances, and real-world artistic settings.
- **Singing Playgrounds**

As part of our strategic aims to embed music more deeply into the daily life of the school, we plan to implement Singing Playgrounds across the setting. This initiative will involve training pupils to lead singing games and activities during breaktimes, promoting musical engagement, leadership, and peer collaboration. Through dedicated vocal training and support, children will develop confidence, musicality, and a sense of ownership over their musical experiences. Singing Playgrounds will help foster a joyful and inclusive musical culture throughout the school.

- **Future Choir Development**

As part of our long-term vision to broaden musical opportunities for pupils, we aim to establish a school choir in the coming years. This initiative will provide children with the chance to develop vocal skills, experience ensemble singing, and participate in performances both within school and the wider community. The choir will foster musicality, confidence, and collaboration, enriching the cultural life of the school.