

Music development plan summary: Cherry Tree Academy 2025-26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Charlotte Newley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Services/ Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	IRock

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.

Review of Academic Year 2024-25

- Pantomime October 2024 – Cinderella. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing a live performance, incorporating both singing and music tech. They had opportunities to ask questions after performance. Another pantomime has been booked for October 2025.
- Performances participated in – Christmas performances and nativity, class assemblies (all classes performed a song or included a performance from their Charanga unit to parents) and whole school Summer music concert on the field to school community. This consisted of a song per year group from Charanga music scheme and additional whole school songs that were learnt through singing assemblies. Year 6 performed their leavers production to the whole school and parents, incorporating many songs and sound effects.
- Summer term African drumming workshop took place in Summer term with an external person visiting and leading. This consisted of a whole school assembly and class workshops using djembe drums.

- Toots and doods whole class instrumental sessions undertaken by Year 5 through Essex Music Services. They learnt and performed 4 short songs at the Cherry Fest concert in the Summer term.
- IRock – weekly sessions for pupils to rehearse together in bands. 12 pupils participated and in the sessions and performed last academic year to parents and also in the whole school Summer concert.
- **For academic year 2025-26**, we will move to the Creative Music Scheme with Charanga and provide CPD opportunities to upskill new and existing staff, particularly with the use of ICT.
Explore links with local secondary schools and Colchester Institute/ Essex university to strengthen links in the community and opportunities for visitors to perform to our pupils, host workshops etc.

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is taught weekly across the school using the Charanga Music Scheme, which is aligned with the National Curriculum/Model Music Curriculum and ensures clear progression in musical knowledge, skills and vocabulary from EYFS through to Year 6. Lessons are carefully sequenced and focus on the four key strands of music education: *listening, performing, composing and evaluating*.

Pupils develop their singing voices, rhythmic understanding, and instrumental skills through practical, engaging lessons that promote collaboration and creativity. Opportunities to play tuned and untuned instruments are embedded within class lessons, and pupils are encouraged to explore and respond to a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions.

Throughout the year, one Key Stage 2 class engages with and benefits from whole-class instrumental tuition delivered in partnership with the Essex Music Hub, giving pupils the opportunity to learn an instrument as part of their curriculum entitlement and to develop ensemble skills.

Music teaching is inclusive and accessible to all pupils. Lessons are adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, with additional scaffolding, practical support and alternative means of participation where appropriate. Charanga's SEND programme is used as a basis for the provision of pupils with significant and complex needs.

Music Nurture sessions are used for targeted groups of pupils to support emotional regulation, communication, confidence and wellbeing, recognising the powerful role music can play in supporting personal development.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Cherry Tree Academy offers a range of co-curricular music opportunities that allow pupils to extend their musical learning beyond the classroom.

Weekly iRock sessions provide pupils with the opportunity to learn contemporary band instruments, develop performance and teamwork skills, and experience playing as part of a group. Pupils participating in iRock perform termly to other classes and to parents and carers, building confidence and a sense of achievement.

The school holds weekly singing assemblies, which are inclusive and open to all pupils. These assemblies develop vocal skills, musical memory and enjoyment, while also strengthening the sense of community and shared musical identity. Pupils also have regular opportunities to perform in whole-school and class assemblies, further embedding music into everyday school life.

The school is committed to widening access to instrumental learning and aims to expand the range of instruments available during class music lessons. This academic year we will also continue to explore the reintroduction of 1-to-1 instrumental tuition through Essex Music Services, ensuring that pupils who wish to pursue individual instrumental study are supported to do so.

Part C: Musical experiences

Musical performance and live music experiences are a highlight of the music provision at Cherry Tree. Pupils participate in a wide range of regular and high-quality musical experiences throughout the year.

The school offers termly performances, including Christmas performances that are structured by phase:

- EYFS and Year 1
- Years 2 and 3
- Years 4, 5 and 6

These performances are shared with parents and carers and provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to develop performance skills and confidence.

Pupils also take part in class assemblies, whole-school assemblies, and the annual whole-school summer concert, 'Cherry Fest!', which celebrates musical learning and achievement across the school and has a great uptake with our school community attending.

In addition, year groups perform at the local care home, strengthening community links and giving pupils valuable experience of performing for a wider audience.

Cherry Tree Academy ensures that pupils experience at least one live music performance or workshop each year, which may include pantomimes, musical theatre, inter-

active workshops or performances by live musicians. These experiences enhance pupils' cultural capital and expose them to professional musicians and a variety of musical pathways.

In the future

Cherry Tree Academy is committed to the ongoing development of its music provision. Future priorities include:

- Broadening the range of instruments taught within curriculum music lessons
- Increasing access to individual and small-group instrumental tuition (dependent on demand)
- Strengthening partnerships with Essex Music Hub, Essex Music Services and other music providers.
- Continuing to embed music as a tool to support wellbeing, inclusion and nurture
- Expanding performance opportunities and pupil voice within music

Further information

To support high-quality music teaching across the school, staff CPD has been arranged to develop confidence and subject knowledge in delivering the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. Ongoing professional development ensures that music teaching remains engaging, inclusive and progressive for all pupils.

Workshops to take place in Spring term (Listening and performance) and Summer Term (Composition and Improvisation).