The Free School Norwich Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Holly Bodmer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	The Wharf Academy

Free School Norwich supports all children to have access to high quality music education and follows the 2021 national music curriculum guidance for KS1 and KS2 Teaching music in schools - GOV.UK

Music is also an important part of the EYFS statutory framework and at Free School Norwich it is taught following the statutory Early Learning Goals EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers as well as encompassing 'Development Matters' guidance Development Matters - GOV.UK and the 'Birth to 5 Matters' guidance Birthto5Matters-download.pdf. The EYFS also links to the four strands of KS1 music national curriculum as an early initial skills building in those areas.

Part A: Curriculum music

Curriculum music provision is delivered across the whole school in weekly lessons that are creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging. The programme encourages children to be enthusiastic about music and to develop the skills of those who are already musical as well as those who have had little or no previous access to music. Music is mostly a practical subject, and every lesson involves live music making. The theory of music is also valued and taught intrinsically alongside the practical. Current weekly lessons are 45 minutes for KS2 and 30 minutes for KS1 and EYFS.

The Free School Norwich music curriculum is broad and balanced, incorporating music from different time periods, places and cultures. It offers many opportunities to play, perform and experience live music using a wide range of instruments as well as singing provision. It also develops cross-curricular links, enhancing children's learning across other topics and subjects.

Music across the whole school includes learning in four areas (as specified in the National Music Curriculum guidance):
EYFS and KS1: Singing, Listening, Composing and Musicianship
KS2: Singing, Listening, Composing, Performing

Topics change termly to ensure that children access a variety of musical instruments and genres whilst developing and advancing their previous learning. In every topic, children listen to a broad range of recorded performances and experience live music making. Children have lots of opportunities to perform in class and assemblies. Children in UKS2 also perform and present music to KS1 children. We provide a bi-annual opportunity to perform in a more formal setting, to parents. As much as possible, the music curriculum follows the suggestions for high-quality school music provision by the government's National Plan for Music Education (2022) including:

Access to lesson across a range of instruments, and voice
Termly Assembly performances
Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Music Curriculum Overview:

EYFS:
Harvest Term – The Sounds around us
Christmas Term – Songs for Christmas
Winter Term –Music around the World
Spring Term – Making Music
Whitsun Term – Musical Patterns
Summer Term – Singing

EYFS Music Curriculum builds the skills in the following criteria:

-Personal, social and emotional development
-Communication and Language
-Characteristics of an effective learner
-Understanding the World
-Physical Development
-Expressive Arts
-Literacy
-Mathematics

Key Stage 1:
Harvest Term – Harvest Songs (Singing)
Christmas Term – A Musical Nativity (Singing)
Winter Term – What do you hear? Musical Genres (Listening, Musicianship)
Spring Term – Instruments of the Orchestra (Listening, Musicianship and Composing)
Whitsun Term – Creating Music (Composing)
Summer Term – Musical Storytelling (Singing and Musicianship)

Lower Key Stage 2:
Harvest Term – Musical Influences (Listening and Appraising, Performing)
Christmas Term – Songs for Christmas (Singing)
Winter Term – Music from around the World (Listening and Appraising, Performing)
Spring Term – Whole Class Instrument Learning, Ukulele (Performing)
Whitsun Term – Whole Class Instrument Learning, Recorder (Performing)
Summer Term – Composing (Composing)

Upper Key Stage 2:
Harvest Term - Connections and Contrasts (Listening and Appraising)
Christmas Term – Songs for Christmas (Singing)
Winter Term – One Piece Focus, Opera/Folk (Performing, Listening and Appraising)
Spring Term – Whole Class Instrument Learning, Ukulele/Recorder (Performing)
Whitsun Term – Composing (Composing and Performing)
Summer Term – Music Technology (Composing)

Music across the whole school is differentiated appropriately to include pupils of differing abilities and needs. Pupil progress is monitored by the music lead and assessed three times a year. Adaptations in Music curriculum provision to support pupils with different needs include:

-Liaising with class teachers identifying needs and communicating specialist support.
-Inclusive pupil voice which considers and collects opinions from a range of pupils including pupils with SEND.
- A broad and balanced curriculum to support and extend engagement.
- Lesson content scaffolded and tailored to pupil's abilities and to meet varying needs, ensuring they can make the best possible progress.
- Music curriculum incorporates an annual pupil voice to ensure children are at the centre of decisions made.

For more information on SEND at Free School Norwich see Special Educational Needs and Disability – The Free School Norwich

For more details on Music Curriculum including Music Curriculum Progression see Music – The Free School Norwich

Music Curriculum Targets for next year include:

- Seeking more performance and outreach opportunities. orking with the Primary Arts Network to enable further opportunities for pupils to access live performance (in line with the schools overall Arts Strategy).
- Review the way in which music is assessed. For example, making strategic use of formative assessment to track progress and set next step challenges. Review and share assessment criteria with other staff to ensure assessment music is rigorous, transparent and consistent.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Additional and optional music provision at Free School includes:

Free to join lunchtime clubs (taking place during playtime part of lunchbreak):

Weekly Year 6 Choir through the year
Weekly Recorder lessons throughout the year (Years 4, 5 and Year 6)
Weekly Ocarina lessons throughout the year (Years 2 and 3).

One-to-one paid instrument tuition provided by the Wharf Academy
Weekly Guitar, Drums and Piano lessons

Part C: Musical experiences

Currently pupils at Free School Norwich experience:

- Live music making in every lesson.
- Timetabled whole class instrument learning for all KS2 pupils (ukulele and recorder) and regular access to live music making with real instruments (all year groups).
- Termly performances in Assembly for all year groups (year groups taking turns to perform on different terms and every child experiencing being an audience).
- Annual performance to parents for all year groups:

EYFS and KS1 at Christmas
KS2 at Easter

- Year 6 performances in the community: This year includes Festive performances at The Forum (supported by Norfolk music hub), John Lewis and Norfolk County Music Festival.

In the future

Future music plans at Free School Norwich are to further value, utilize and connect with our arts community to broaden and elevate our pupil's music experiences. In addition to this, we will celebrate and promote music, making it more visible, accessible and

ambitious (both in provision of performance opportunities and deepening musicianship skills in every pupil).

Future considerations include:

Every pupil to experience a live performance every year
Every pupil to experience a visiting musician every year
Introducing a Singing Assembly
Extending UKS2 music lessons to an hour a week
Introducing a weekly Ukulele Club
Broadening 1:1 lessons from the Wharf Academy to include Violin