

Music development plan summary: Ellington Infant School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Caroline Wheeler
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Dani Jamieson
Name of local music hub	Kent
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Ellington Infant School, every child receives a minimum of one hour of curriculum music each week throughout the academic year. Our bespoke music curriculum has been carefully sequenced to ensure pupils progressively develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through listening, singing, composing, improvising and performing.

Our curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum and has been designed around six key strands:

- Pulse and rhythm
- Pitch and melody
- Singing and vocal development
- Composition and improvisation

- Listening and appraising
- Ensemble performance

Children revisit and build upon prior learning through carefully planned retrieval opportunities and increasingly challenging musical experiences.

Across Key Stage 1, pupils progressively develop their understanding of:

- pulse
- rhythm
- pitch
- tempo
- dynamics
- timbre
- texture
- structure
- notation
- expression

Children regularly listen to music from a wide range of periods, cultures and genres, including:

- orchestral music
- folk music
- world music
- musical theatre
- sea shanties
- African drumming
- samba
- Vivaldi
- film soundtracks

Every unit includes opportunities for pupils to:

- sing confidently
- compose
- improvise
- perform
- evaluate music using subject-specific vocabulary.

The curriculum culminates in regular class performances, ensuring children apply their musical learning in authentic contexts throughout the year.

Music lessons are fully inclusive. Teachers adapt learning through modelling, visual prompts, practical exploration, repetition and collaborative music-making to ensure all pupils, including those with SEND, are able to participate successfully and experience success.

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.

Children are encouraged to develop their musical interests beyond the classroom through a range of additional opportunities.

These currently include:

- weekly year group singing assemblies (Key Stage 1)
- weekly recorder club (Terms 2 and 3)
- weekly iRock rock band sessions throughout the year (charge applied)
- individual instrumental tuition provided through Kent Music (charge applied)
- opportunities to perform within assemblies and school events

Children learning instruments through Kent Music receive high-quality tuition from specialist teachers and are encouraged to perform regularly.

Recorder Club provides children with their first experience of learning a classroom instrument beyond the curriculum, developing reading, performance and ensemble skills.

The school works closely with Kent Music to promote further instrumental opportunities and support families wishing to continue musical learning outside school.

Music activities are open to all pupils and the school actively encourages participation from children who may not otherwise access instrumental tuition.

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.

Throughout the year, every child participates in a wide range of musical experiences that celebrate performance and develop confidence.

These include:

- weekly year-group singing assemblies (KS1)
- class performances linked to curriculum units
- Harvest celebrations
- Christmas productions and nativities
- Year 2 Leavers' performance
- class assemblies featuring music
- opportunities to perform to parents and families
- iRock performances
- listening to live and recorded performances from a wide range of genres and cultures

Performance is embedded within every term of the curriculum, ensuring every child experiences rehearsing, refining and performing music for an authentic audience.

Children also develop their listening skills through exposure to professional musicians and performances, helping them understand how music communicates mood, atmosphere and emotion.

In the future

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

- strengthen our partnership with Kent Music to increase opportunities for live musical experiences
- develop opportunities for children to perform within the wider community
- expand opportunities for instrumental ensemble performance
- continue refining our bespoke curriculum to ensure progression in musical vocabulary, notation and composition
- further develop pupil leadership within musical performances
- explore opportunities to establish a school choir to participate in local events.

Further information

Ellington Infant School works in partnership with Kent Music to provide high-quality instrumental tuition and promote lifelong engagement with music. Families are

signposted to wider musical opportunities available through Kent Music, including lessons and community ensembles.