

Music Development Plan Summary: Frome Valley 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	Natasha Johnstone
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Dorset Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Wessex Schools Music

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.

Our music curriculum is based on the model music curriculum. Our milestones around which the curriculum is centred are singing, listening, composing and performing. Each year group has an hour a week scheduled for music teaching. In Reception, the children are introduced to many songs and rhythm instruments by using the Charanga Curriculum.

In all year groups, we look at the music elements (such as pitch, duration, dynamics, structure and harmony) in the Autumn Term. Each year group will sing, listen, compose and perform using these elements as the stimulus. We continue to use these elements as the continuous provision while looking at different styles of music in the Spring Term. In Year 1, we look at Blues, Samba, Indonesian Gamelan, The Beatles, Holst Planet Suite and Music Technology at a basic level. These are then revisited in Year 2 at a more advanced level. Year 3 look at Indian Music, Mussorgsky, Jazz and

Beethoven and then Year 4 revisits these styles at a deeper level. In the Summer Term, we concentrate on learning new instruments and then performing on them. Year 1 learn the Boomwhackers, Year 2 learn the xylophones, Year 3 are provided tuition by Dorset Music Hub (normally samba) and Year 4 learn Samba Drumming.

We use Flashback Fives as part of our teaching to assess knowledge and skills learnt. Our assessment takes the form of videos that are at the start and end of a term, so we can see progress and achievement.

All of our lessons are inclusive and the SEN children are guided with adult support or by their peers in mixed abilities groups.

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.

Pupils from Year 2 onwards can access individual or group music tuition at school through Wessex Music. In 2024-2025, 4 children accessed music tuition (keyboard or guitar lessons. One child used Pupil Premium money (£100 that the school gives to all Pupil Premium families) to access this.

We offer a school choir which is open to all pupils in Years 3 and 4. The choir is free and includes after school practices for specific events. We perform a Carols By Candlelight concert in the Autumn Term. The choir also take part in the local church service each term. For example, the choir attended the local church Harvest Festival to sing a Harvest song. The choir also perform within school. For example, the choir learnt and performed a special song for Remembrance.

At Christmas, we perform a school nativity to parents and carers which includes children playing instruments and singing. In the Summer Term, we have celebration assemblies where we encourage children who have lessons outside of school or at school to perform in front of parents as well. We also make the most of the opportunities to celebrate Easter, Christmas and Harvest in our local church, where we sing as a school choir.

Dorset Music Hub and Wessex Schools Music have lots of opportunities for children to access music outside the curriculum; these are very varied and we are invited as schools to take part in these events.

Wessex Music offers a range of ensembles: Skylarks Choir (children in Years 2-4); Stringalings (beginner strings Grade 0-2); Bandemonium (beginning wind band

Grade0-2); Dorchester Children's Orchestra (Grade 2+). Wessex music produces termly newsletters for parents that are sent out to all parents.

Dorset Music Hub offer a bursary of up to £300 for young musicians facing financial challenges.

The Wessex Schools Music provides lots of support and events too. Every year, there is the Wessex Schools Singing Concert, which involves all the children from Year 4 across all the First Schools in the group. This takes place on three evenings in March.

Also, they have the Wessex Art Fest which involved children of all ages. There were workshops and Drop-in sessions, where children could try out a variety of instruments. There was an open mic event and the day concluded with a concert in the evening.

Wessex Music deliver Instrument Roadshows every two years where they visit all school for a 45 minute – 1 hour concert featuring a range of instruments and a range of musical styles.

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.

In addition to teaching normal music curriculum lessons, we have a programme of group instrumental teaching. In Year 1, we teach children how to play the Boomwhackers, In Year 2, children learn to play the xylophones. Then, Year 1 and Year 2 perform a concert to their parents at the end of the teaching sessions. Year 4 learn the ukulele and also perform a concert. Year 3 are taught through The Dorset Music Hub Musicianship Programme to learn a new instrument or skills. In 2024-2025, they learnt how to play the recorder. In previous years, they have learnt to play samba percussion or learnt to play a brass instrument.

We have a weekly school Singing Practice where we introduce new hymns and music to the children and sing in rounds and parts

At Christmas, we perform a school nativity to parents and carers which includes children playing instruments and singing. In the Summer Term we have celebration assemblies where we encourage children who have lessons outside of school or at school to perform in front of parents as well. We also make the most of the opportunities to go and celebrate Easter, Christmas and Harvest in our local church, where we sing as a school choir.

At the end of term Year 4 perform a song and some of them volunteer to perform on other instruments as part of our Leaver's Assembly.

Every few year, we have Music Week (an immersive week of all things musical with the children off timetable for the whole week. In 2023-22024, we had a Music Week where a local Rap artist (a past pupil!) came into school to encourage the children to produce their own music. He performed his music for the children and many of them were very inspired by his visit. We also used that week to make our own instruments and play them in different rhythms for the whole school to listen to.

In the future

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

In subsequent years we are planning to develop children's appreciation of music by exposing them to a wide range of composers and styles of music through our Singing Practices and assemblies.

We are looking for ways to more effectively promote the activities offered by the Dorset Music Hub and Wessex Schools Music. We are looking for ways to include a music group as part of the provision that we offer after school.

We will attempt to take the children to a professional musical concert if the opportunity arises again. We will continue to look for opportunities to introduce the children to live music and performances.

We need to develop our Early Years Music programme, our MAT is working on that this year.