



Music Development Plan Summary

Mill Water School (Special)

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023/24
Date this summary was published	11/09/24
Date this summary will be reviewed	09/25
Name of the school music lead	Sally Cregan
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Hub

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.

Mill Water School is a special school for pupils aged from 3 to 19 years. Pupils all have severe learning difficulties (SLD) and may also have a range of other complex needs including Autism, Speech and Language difficulties, sensory impairment, physical disabilities, Down's syndrome or other needs.

The school Curriculum is structured into Pathways to ensure that pupils receive an ambitious and well sequenced Curriculum that is tailored to their needs. Pupils are in mixed year group classes within each Pathway.

Mill Water School has three core subjects:

- Communication
- Personal Social Health Education
- Enrichment

Music is a key area of focus within the area of Enrichment.

Mill Water School has developed its own bespoke Music Curriculum to meet the different needs of pupils within each Pathway.

The Curriculum INTENT for each Pathway in each age phase has been clearly identified. Mill Water has a clear vision for Music provision across the whole school.

In conjunction with Mill Water's school vision '*their best futures*', the music curriculum is designed to support pupils to enjoy, engage and participate in musical activities in later life.

The curriculum has a strong emphasis on supporting engagement in musical activities whether through the Sounds of Intent Programme or the highly adapted Charanga Music Curriculum, pupils are taught to make choices, express preferences and create and explore music that is meaningful and enjoyable for them.

In the wider community music is a way of bringing people together. This could be at cultural events, such as Remembrance Day, Religious events such as Christmas or Diwali, or other local groups such as choirs, theatre groups, music making groups etc. These are some of the most inclusive activities communities provide and offer a wealth of opportunity for adults with special needs to engage meaningfully in community life. The benefits to all involved are really significant. The events themselves support people's wellbeing and mental health. They also provide opportunities to meet others, make friends and support a sense of belonging and purpose.

The curriculum aims to provide pupils with the essential skills to access the community music appropriate to their preferences and needs to ensure their future lives are enriched.

Each class will adapt the Curriculum to meet the individual needs of their learners. Each Pathway approaches the teaching of music in a slightly different way:

Pre-Formal Pathway

Pupils in the Preformal Pathway will access music throughout the day. Music supports both receptive and expressive communication and is used to support cues for things changing, transitions and mood for different sessions. It is used in sessions such as Sensology and Tac Pac as part of a multi-sensory approach. Pupils also have class lead music sessions to develop creative exploration and preferences.

Semi-Formal Pathway

Pupils in the Semi-Formal Pathway engage in music each day in a similar way to the Preformal Pathway where appropriate. In addition, they follow the Sounds of Intent music programme through Count Me In. This is delivered by class teachers who have been trained through the Count Me in Project. This is combined with an adapted version of the SEND units within Charanga.

Formal Pathway

Pupils in the Formal Pathway access music each day, either as part of transitions in the lower school and as part of self-chosen activities in the Middle and Upper School. Pupils in the Formal Pathway have a weekly music lesson with the specialist music teacher who uses an adapted Charanga Curriculum.

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 in the all Pathways have opportunities to experience a range of classroom based tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Pupils within the Formal Pathway access tuned percussion programmes using Glockenspiels, Recorders, Boomwhackers and Bells to develop a basic understanding of pitch and in some cases notation. The school has a close link with Devon Music Hub who have adapted their provision to ensure the school is well provided with the wide range of musical instruments to meet the needs of all learners.

The school has an open school choir who meet weekly to sing, dance and enjoy music together.

The school has a termly programme of different enrichment activities to enrich and support pupils. These offer a range of opportunities within the school day for additional musical experiences.

The school have a range of outdoor musical instruments to support pupils access to music through play.

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.

The school has a comprehensive yearly enrichment programme that varies each year on a 3 yearly cycle. Many of the events include a musical element.

We have termly live music events through Live Music Now as well as bespoke events for each Pathway. These include:

A music teacher specialising in supporting non-verbal communication comes in for a morning each week to support pupils in the Preformal Pathway.

Count Me in specialist musicians and musicians through the Budleigh Music Festival attend for projects each year to support pupils in the Semi-Formal Pathway.

The school has a long standing link with Paddleboat Theatre Company. This group mainly support pupils in the Formal Pathway running Arts Award projects and a yearly performance at the Phoenix Theatre where pupils perform alongside other pupils from local special schools.

In the future

This academic year we aim to:

- Continue to **develop the music curriculum** as part of wider work on establishing our Enrichment Curriculum
- Find more ways to **work with musicians in our local community** increasing events both in school and outside of school
- Deliver **staff training** on using the Curriculum, resources including how to use Charanga
- Continue to run **staff wellbeing events** using music, developing **staff confidence** and supporting mental health

Further Information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.