

Music development plan summary: Featherstone Academy

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	Trudy Nicholls
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Wolverhampton Music Hub
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

Our Music Curriculum

At Featherstone, we teach our music lessons through KAPOW.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn Term	Keeping the pulse: My favourite things	Call and response: Animals	Jazz	Rock and Roll	Blues	Baroque
Spring Term	Sound Patterns: Fairytales	Singing: On this island	Traditional instruments and improvisation: India	Samba and carnival sounds	Composition Notation: Ancient Egypt	Song of World War 2
	Tempo: Snail and Mouse	Instruments: Musical storytelling	Developing singing techniques: The Vikings	Body and Tuned Percussion: Rainforest	African Music	Theme and Variation: Pop Art
Summer Term	Dynamics: Seaside	Structure: Myths and Legends	Pentatonic melodies and composition: Chinese New Year	Adapting and composing: Romans	Composition: Festival of Colour	Dynamics, pitch and texture: Fingal's Cave
	Pitch: Superheroes	Contrasting dynamics: Space	Ballads	Haiku music and performance	Looping and Remixing	Film Music
Musical symbols: Under the sea	Pitch: Musical me	Creating compositions in response to an animation: Mountains	Pitch, tempo and dynamics: Rivers	Musical Theatre	Composing and performing: Leavers song	

This scheme allows all teachers to teach comprehensive and carefully sequenced music lessons, ensuring that all children progress and build upon their music skills throughout each year group. Children are taught the equivalent of one hour of music per week, taught in weekly, themed blocks and lessons are planned and taught as carefully and robustly as any other foundation subject.

Our Music AFL grids have details of our student's progression of musical knowledge and skills from Years 1 – 6.

At Featherstone Academy Music is a way for children to express their emotions enjoyably and creatively. It plays an important role in personal development and at Featherstone Academy we aim to provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform, listen analyse and enjoy music across a wide range of periods, genres and styles.

The objectives of teaching music at Featherstone Academy are:

- Children are given the opportunity to perform, listen to, review and evaluate their own and others music across a range of periods, genres and styles.
- Children are given the opportunity to explore musical terms and notations.
- Children are given the opportunity to sing and use their voices to express themselves, create and compose music.

- Children are given the opportunity to learn a music instrument to enable them to create and compose music with these instruments.
- Children are given the opportunity to understand how music is created and produced.

Music in EYFS –

We teach music in Foundation Stage as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the Foundation Stage Framework (2014). We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. 'Counting Songs' foster a child's mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

In KS1, the children will be taught to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. They will play tuned, un-tuned instruments, listen to a range of live, and recorded music and experiment with, create, select, and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

In KS2, the children will be taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory. They will be taught to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts and improve and compose music for a range of purposes. They will listen, recall sounds with increasing aural memory, use, understand staff and other musical notations, appreciate, and understand a wider range of live and recorded music. They will also develop an understanding of the history of music.

Adaptation

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

We achieve this in a variety of ways by:

- Grouping children by ability in the room and setting different tasks to each ability group.
- Providing resources depending on the ability of the child.
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children

Part B: Extra-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.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value of music in the wider community. We aim to provide opportunities for children to use their musical skills, knowledge and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

The school offers a year-round Choir Club for pupils in Years 4–6. As part of our ongoing commitment to developing musical skills and confidence, pupils participate in weekly singing during assembly and have the opportunity to take part in a range of performances throughout the year.

Key events and opportunities include:

- Young Voices Concert for pupils in Years 4–6
- Easter Production for EYFS
- Christmas Carol Concerts and Nativity Performances

Children are also invited to join the after-school choir which also supports rehearsals for the Young Voices programme.

The Key Stage 2 Young Voices Choir will perform in Birmingham in 2026.

In addition, pupils will share their learning with the wider community by performing selected songs for the Senior Citizens Club at the Methodist Chapel in Featherstone and the Warm Wednesday Club at Featherstone Community Centre.

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.

From Little Learners to Year 6, each year group gets an opportunity to put on a vibrant, fun, musical production in front of the whole school and parents. All children rehearse, learn and perform songs for Christmas Nativities and Christmas Productions. They take pride in performing in front of their peers and learn a range of challenging songs that engages and stretches their music potential.

Children also have the opportunity to watch a pantomime and a theatre production delivered by an external provider. These performances incorporate a significant musical element, including singing and dance. This experience is provided at no cost to parents.

In Years 5 and 6, the children visit a local sixth form performing arts school, where the students put on a special show for them to watch. The children enjoy seeing live performances from older students and experiencing a real theatre environment. This annual visit helps inspire their creativity and gives them a glimpse of what performing arts looks like at a higher level.

Children in Year 6 rehearse, prepare, and participate in their chosen end-of-year production, which is then performed for parents and peers.

As previously mentioned, Young Voices is another highly valuable musical opportunity in which we participate each year. It is a much-loved experience, and the children thoroughly enjoy being part of it.

Each year, the children take part in an exciting interactive music concert run by our local music school. They get the chance to sing popular songs that they know and love, and they even have an opportunity to try playing a real instrument on stage. The event is full of energy and fun, and it helps the children grow in confidence as young musicians.

In the future

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

- Children to have opportunity to learn an instrument outside normal lesson time this maybe during after school club or paid tuition
- More music, theatre and productions in school and visiting.
- Improve instrument provision further
- To work with Wolverhampton Music Hub as a support network for our Music curriculum

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.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.