Music Development Plan Summary: Ickleford Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	Summer 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer Term 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Wright (Headteacher)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Hertfordshire Music Service

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.

Ickleford Primary School is committed to instilling a deep and enduring love for music in every child. Our rich and diverse curriculum aims to inspire and engage pupils through a wide range of musical experiences. We believe in providing every pupil with the opportunity to create, perform and enjoy music, with a special emphasis on learning to play a variety of percussion instruments, both tuned and untuned. Our goal is to nurture the children's ability to use their voices expressively and to develop their skills in composing music, both independently and collaboratively. As a result, pupils develop increasing confidence in performing, composing and sharing their musical ideas.

Through our curriculum, we strive to cultivate pupils' appreciation for diverse musical forms and empower them to form informed judgments using evocative and technical language about music. We are dedicated to helping pupils understand the significance of music in different cultures and histories. Music is an integral part of our school's identity and community spirit, contributing to the personal and social development of all children. This leads to high levels of engagement and participation, with pupils developing a strong sense of pride in their musical achievements.

Curriculum Overview
Ickleford Primary School publishes a detailed curriculum for music, reflecting our commitment to providing high-quality music education aligned with the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). Each year group follows a progression of skills that includes performing, composing, listening, and appraising. This curriculum also emphasizes the interrelated dimensions of music such as pitch, rhythm, dynamics and timbre. Our approach ensures that all pupils, regardless of ability, are included and can engage fully with the music curriculum.

Time Allocation
Key Stage 1: 45-minute weekly sessions
Key Stage 2: 60-minute weekly sessions, with Year 3 participating in a whole-class instrumental program (cello).

Inclusivity and SEND
Our music curriculum is designed to be accessible for pupils with SEND.
We:

- Use differentiated resources and adapted instruments to enable full participation.
- Provide additional support where necessary, including tailored lessons for pupils with specific needs.
- Ensure close collaboration between the Music Lead and SENCO to meet the individual needs of pupils.

This ensures that all pupils, including those with SEND, can access and succeed in music and feel valued as musicians.

For more on our SEND provision, see the Ickleford SEND Information (update this with the correct link to your SEND webpage).

Learning Opportunities

- **Singing:** Pupils across all year groups are taught to use their voices expressively. Weekly singing assemblies promote vocal skills and repertoire. As a result, pupils sing with increasing accuracy, expression and confidence.
- **Instrumental Lessons:** Year 3 pupils receive whole-class ensemble teaching (cello). Additionally, small group or individual lessons are available for guitar (electric and acoustic), voice, violin, piano, brass and woodwind through Hertfordshire Music Service.
- **Digital Music:** Older pupils use laptops to explore digital composition, enhancing creativity through age-appropriate software via Purple Mash.

Partnerships

- **Hertfordshire Music Service:** Supports instrumental teaching and progression pathways for pupils.
- **Hertfordshire Music Hub:** Provides CPD for staff, resources for lessons, and performance opportunities such as the Herts Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall.
- **Community Engagement**: Pupils perform at local care homes, St. Katharine's Church (60+ Club) and the Hitchin Music Festival, fostering a sense of community and shared celebration through music.

Part B: Extracurricular music: beyond the core curriculum

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.

In addition to our curriculum music lessons, Ickleford Primary School offers a range of extra-curricular music opportunities, ensuring that all pupils have access to music education outside of their regular class time. This leads to strong uptake and sustained participation in musical activities across the school.

Instrumental Tuition:
We offer **individual and small-group instrumental lessons** through the **Hertfordshire Music Service**. Available instruments include:

- **Violin**
- **Piano**
- **Guitar (acoustic or electric)**
- **Voice**
- **Cello**
- **Brass (trumpet, trombone, etc.)**
- **Woodwind (flute, clarinet, etc.)**

For families eligible for Pupil Premium, we offer subsidised lessons to ensure that all pupils, regardless of financial circumstances, can participate. Instrumental tuition is usually charged by the Hertfordshire Music Service, but we are committed to ensuring that financial support is available for those in need, including free lessons where appropriate. Instruments are also available for loan through the Hertfordshire Music Service, with arrangements for families to borrow them at no additional cost when required.

Choirs and Ensembles:
Pupils have the opportunity to join a variety of music groups beyond lesson time:

- **KS2 Choir**: Open to all pupils in Years 3-6, this choir performs at school events and community venues, including St. Katharine's Church 60+ groups and local care homes.
- **KS1 Choir**: An inclusive choir for younger pupils, focusing on fun and interactive musical sessions.
- **Instrumental Ensembles**: Pupils who play instruments have the opportunity to join ensemble groups such as small instrumental ensembles. These groups rehearse periodically under the guidance of the instrumental teachers and perform during celebration assemblies and at events such as the Hitchin Music Festival or the school’s annual Summer Concert.

Joining:
Our choirs are open to all pupils with no prior musical experience required. This allows every child to participate and enjoy the benefits of musical engagement. Small instrumental ensembles require pupils to reach a specified proficiency level, as determined by their instrumental teacher. However, adaptations are often made to ensure that every child has the opportunity to participate, regardless of their skill level. To ensure that no child is excluded from these opportunities, financial support is available for families in need, particularly those eligible for Pupil Premium.

Opportunities for Progression
We believe that extra-curricular music helps pupils progress in their musical journey and builds their confidence:

- **Progression in Instrumental Learning**: Pupils are encouraged to continue their instrumental learning outside of school through our partnerships with local music hubs and providers. After completing half-class instrumental sessions (e.g. Year 3 cello), pupils can transition into individual lessons with specialist teachers.
- **Hitchin Town Band**: Pupils can join for just £1 per session**,** including the loan of an instrument. This affordable program allows children to learn to play in a band setting, gaining experience with brass instruments and drums. The band also visits the school once a year to perform, providing an excellent opportunity for pupils to observe and participate in a live performance alongside experienced musicians.
- **Saturday Music Centres**: In addition to school-based lessons, pupils are encouraged to attend Saturday music centres and holiday provision provided by the Hertfordshire Music Service. These centres offer a range of activities, including group instrumental lessons, performance opportunities, and music theory classes.
- **Qualifications and Awards**: For pupils who wish to further their musical education, we support their preparation for graded music exams such as ABRSM and Trinity exams, which are available through external examiners. We also celebrate achievements in these exams during school concerts and assemblies.

Rehearsal and Practice Spaces

- **The music room**: Serviced with a piano, spare instruments and music stands that are available for individual and group practice.
- **Classrooms and Hall**: Percussion instruments are often moved around to allow flexibility for rehearsals, ensuring pupils have a dedicated space to refine their skills.

Partnerships
We are proud to collaborate with several organisations to enhance our extracurricular music provision:

- Hertfordshire Music Service: A key partner providing instrumental tuition, performance opportunities, and access to resources such as instrument loans and Saturday music centres.
- Local Music Hubs: These hubs offer professional development for our teachers and provide performance opportunities, such as the Hertfordshire Schools Gala and Royal Albert Hall performances, which some of our pupils participate in.

Part C: Musical Performances

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.

At Ickleford Primary School, performance plays a vital role in our music education, helping pupils gain confidence, develop creativity, and celebrate their musical growth. As a result, pupils become more assured performers who are willing to take creative risks and perform in front of an audience.

School Play (KS2): Each year, pupils participate in our annual school play, where every class performs songs from a variety of musical genres. These performances include wartime classics, reggae, and rap, allowing pupils to explore different styles and historical contexts while developing their vocal and performance skills. This cross-genre exploration broadens their musical knowledge and builds their confidence in performing before an audience.

Nativity (Reception and KS1): The pupils take part in the Nativity play, featuring a blend of traditional and modern seasonal songs. This performance brings together the community for a festive celebration of music, where even the youngest pupils can share their learning through song and movement. It is a cherished event that highlights the children's developing skills in music, expression, and teamwork.

Class Assemblies: To provide regular performance experiences, we hold class assemblies where pupils can perform musical items, whether individually or as part of a group. These assemblies are an important part of our school culture, allowing children to share their musical achievements with their peers, teachers, and parents.

Weekly Celebration Assemblies: This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to showcase their musical talents. Pupils who play musical instruments outside of the school's peripatetic lessons can perform during these assemblies, allowing them to share their achievements with classmates and teachers. This encourages pupils to gain confidence in performing and also fosters a sense of pride in their musical progress.

End-of-Year Summer Concert: Our concert brings together pupils from all year groups, showcasing their musical achievements in a celebratory performance. Pupils perform songs and pieces they've worked on throughout the year, often involving instrumental solos, group performances, and choral numbers. This concert is a highlight of the school year, with parents and the wider community invited to witness the children's musical progress.

Community Performances: Beyond the school, our KS2 choir has regular opportunities to perform at local venues, such as care homes, for church groups and school community events, including the Hitchin Music Festival. These performances offer pupils a chance to connect with the community, enhancing their sense of belonging and social responsibility while developing their performance skills.

Church Services: Music is an integral part of our church services at St. Katharine's Church, where pupils participate in seasonal celebrations, such as Easter Services and Christmas carols, including our annual invitation to all families to join us for Carols on the lawn. These performances tie in with our school's Christian ethos, promoting reflection, celebration and community.

These performance opportunities are woven into our school's ethos, fostering an environment where music is celebrated not just in lessons, but also throughout the

school community. They offer pupils invaluable experience in public speaking, team collaboration, and creative expression, while enhancing their musical skills and boosting their confidence. This results in pupils who are enthusiastic about music and eager to participate in future performance opportunities.

In the future

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

At Ickleford Primary School, we are continuously looking for ways to enhance our music provision. Our plans for the coming years focus on expanding the opportunities available for our pupils and updating the coverage of our music curriculum to include new instruments, digital tools, and performance opportunities. These improvements aim to ensure that music education remains engaging, inclusive, and reflective of modern educational practices.

Improvements in Curriculum Music

- **Increased Lesson Time**: to ensure children engage in music lesson time for hour in total per week across all key stages. This expectation will provide pupils with more time to develop their skills and understanding of music, including singing to reinforce other curriculum learning, offering a deeper and more sustained learning experience.
- **Updating Curriculum Coverage**: in 2026-2027, we are exploring opportunities to update our curriculum coverage by incorporating more digital composition tools and modern teaching methodologies as we increase our laptop accessibility. This approach helps pupils develop digital skills while complementing their traditional music education, encouraging creativity and broadening their musical horizons.
- We will also consider changing our scheme of work subscription from Collins Music Express to either Charanga or Sing Up, based on how well each supports our music curriculum intent, including progression, inclusivity, teacher workload, and opportunities for performance and musical creativity.

Extracurricular Music Developments

- **Music Hub Meetings and Large-Scale Events**: We plan to continue our involvement in termly Music Hub meetings/events/online forums to stay connected with other schools and share best practices. We are also seeking to engage in large-scale music events such as the Hertfordshire Music Gala or other Schools' Massed Choir. These events offer pupils the opportunity to participate in large group performances, enhancing their musical experience and fostering a sense of community.
- **Digital Composition Tools**: We are looking to further integrate digital tools into our music curriculum. By experimenting with new units of learning in the computing curriculum (Purple Mash) for music composition, we aim to improve digital composition literacy, helping pupils learn how to create music using modern software and technology. This will allow pupils to develop new skills in a fun and creative way while complementing traditional music learning.

These planned improvements are designed to build on the strong foundation we have in place at Ickleford Primary School. By integrating technology, expanding the instrumental offering, and introducing more performance opportunities, we will continue

to provide a comprehensive, engaging, and dynamic music education that prepares our pupils for a lifelong connection to music. As a result, pupils leave Ickleford with the knowledge, skills and confidence to continue their musical journey beyond primary school.

Further information (optional)

Hertfordshire Music Hub Vision for 2020-2030:

On our journey towards becoming a fully inclusive music service, some of the current areas of development include:

Every Person a Musician

- Enable every young person in Hertfordshire to find their own unique 'musical voice'
- Invest in Early Years Foundation Stage music to deliver long term, life-long benefits
- Put inclusion at the heart of our work
- Champion innovative pedagogy and new music

Musical 'Voice'

- New focus on leading progression in singing across the county
- Exploring the universal power of singing together
- Use of singing as a route into instrumental music
- More options for learning a musical instrument from an early age
- Supporting schools across Key Stages with academic musical progression
- Exploration of new musical expression e.g. DJing, musical production and live electronic music

Musical Communities

- Cater for life-long learning
- More ways to access music making locally
- Parent-baby classes through to adult ensembles and choirs for social prescribing and reducing loneliness
- Safe, supportive space for young people
- Community music making that meets local need and interest, including Djembe, Steel Pans and family music classes

Challenging Traditions

- Exploring new lesson delivery methods
- Deliver access to more genres and styles across Hertfordshire including rock, pop, folk and electronic music with formal qualification routes where possible
- Support performances in schools of all genres to reflect new tastes and educate about other styles unknown to young people
- Championing new music and musical collaborations