

Music development plan summary 2026 2027

Ditton Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 2026
Date this summary was published	Sept 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sian Walker and Jenna Ware
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	S Ward
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.

Our curriculum music is delivered through the Charanga Music Scheme from EYFS to Year 6. Charanga provides a fully sequenced, spiral curriculum aligned with the National Curriculum and the DfE Model Music Curriculum. Lessons ensure clear progression in singing, listening, composing, improvisation, and performing. Built-in differentiation supports inclusivity for all learners, while digital tools and structured planning empower teachers and enhance pupil engagement. Charanga's weekly units ensure pupils revisit key musical concepts with increasing depth, developing confident, competent young musicians.

The Music Curriculum is allocated 30 mins per week – often arranged in termly allocations of 1 hour to increase depth.

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.

Across the year, pupils at Ditton CofE Junior School take part in a developing but meaningful range of musical experiences. While our offer is modest, we provide regular opportunities for pupils to sing, perform, listen, and engage with music both in and beyond curriculum lessons.

Regular Whole-School Musical Events

Weekly Singing Worship (Whole School)

A weekly singing worship takes place in the hall, enabling all pupils to sing together, build musical confidence and experience music as part of collective worship.

Music in Daily Collective Worship

Music is incorporated daily through reflective listening, hymn singing, or musical cues within worship, ensuring pupils encounter music regularly.

3. Rock Steady Band Programme

From Spring Term 2, selected pupils can join our Rock Steady band group, giving them practical experience of playing in a band setting.

- **Focus:** Performance, instrumental roles, teamwork
- **Charging:** Delivered by an external provider; families pay, with support considered for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium
- **Participation:** Opt-in programme supporting confidence and engagement

Performances, Productions and Presentations

Pupils take part in or experience *at least two school productions or presentations* each year. These include singing, spoken parts, and musical contributions, providing valuable performance experience.

Audiences:

- Audiences include families, staff and peers.
- Events are **free**.

6. Out-of-School Musical Experiences

Currently, opportunities to attend live musical events outside of school are limited. However, as our partnership with **Kent Music** develops, we aim to widen access to concerts, hub-led events and musical workshops in the future.

7. Showtime square

This is a lunchtime space for children to encourage music and signing as part of their daily enrichment. It is supervised by staff members.

8. Drumba

We trained all staff in the use of Drumba which is another important part of our Music Development Plan, providing a curriculum-aligned programme that combines music and physical education through rhythm, drumming and movement. Used weekly by most classes either as part of indoor PE or in the Enrichment session every class has weekly, Drumba develops pupils' musical skills such as pulse, rhythm, listening, timing and performance, while also enhancing coordination, balance, fitness and teamwork. The programme supports progression from EYFS to Year 6 and is designed to be inclusive and accessible for all pupils, including those with SEND. Through regular participation, children build confidence, concentration and physical wellbeing, making Drumba an effective tool for enriching both our Music and PE curriculum offer.

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.

- School Choir (participant or audience)
- Weekly Singing (3 times per week in worship) all participate – a range of religious and secular music is used to ensure that all children access.
- Trust Concert – Twice a year opportunity for Choir to learn and perform at a theatre (Knole) (Participant or audience – also families attend)
- Participation in Young Voices annually (Participant and audience – also families attend)
- There are opportunities for staff leading worship to incorporate elements of cultural capital enrichment by exposure to artists, pieces of music and the influence of music on human beings.
- Piano in dining hall Thursday event- a 'Kings Cross Station' style piano offer in the Lunch Hall for 10 minutes. This is for children to learn a piece, improvise or just experience the use of a piano for enjoyment and experimentation.
- To enrich the experience of musical instruments for all children – we have extended the offer from instruments such as recorders, xylophones and other percussion instruments to include an electric Keyboard provision (with headphones) to be accessed either in Music lessons or as part of the enrichment programme for all children across the year.

Part C: Planned Improvements for Future Years

Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen our curriculum music, co-curricular offer and wider musical experiences so that pupils encounter richer opportunities for performance, instrumental learning and musical progression. While our offer is growing from a modest starting point, we have clear, achievable next steps that will significantly enhance music provision over the next one to two years.

1. Expanding Instrumental Experiences Within Curriculum Lessons

We plan to broaden pupils' hands-on experience with instruments during curriculum lessons. Using potential PTA funding, we aim to purchase additional classroom instruments to support whole-class and group participation. This will allow pupils to work with a wider variety of tuned and untuned instruments, deepening their practical musicianship and supporting a more ambitious curriculum.

2. Increasing Spaces for Performance and Musical Sharing

To strengthen pupils' confidence and provide more authentic performance opportunities, we plan to build an outdoor classroom large enough to host:

- informal "show and tell" performances for families.
- musical sharing with pupils from the local infant school
- small-scale concerts and demonstrations led by pupils.

This space will enable frequent, low-stakes performances — a key feature of high-quality music provision — and will significantly increase access to performative opportunities for all year groups.

3. Strengthening Partnerships and Instrumental Tuition

We are re-establishing our membership with Kent Music Hub and anticipate an increase in individual instrumental lessons offered through the hub as a result.

As part of expanding early-stage musical pathways, we will introduce:

- Beginner piano lessons taught by a skilled teaching assistant.
- Beginner guitar lessons also delivered free for initial stages.
- A new recorder group led by a staff member.

These offers will ensure that more pupils experience instrumental learning at an affordable or free cost, improving equity and progression.

4. Enriching Musical Experiences Through Visiting Providers

We aim to introduce visiting musical experiences, beginning with a steel pans workshop, offering pupils exposure to diverse instruments, cultures and ensemble traditions. This will form part of a wider plan to host visiting musicians, broadening pupils' cultural and musical understanding.

5. Improving Staff Confidence and Subject Knowledge

Spring 2027 - ensuring all staff — particularly non-specialists — receive targeted training to improve curriculum delivery, assessment confidence and musical modelling in lessons. Following this training, we will:

- review and enhance the curriculum sequence.
- cost up and purchase additional instruments to enrich Charanga units.
- strengthen assessment and progression tracking.

This aligns with the feature of high-quality provision focusing on the expertise and confidence of teachers.

6. Longer-Term Plans Linked to DfE Features of High-Quality Provision

Over the next two academic years, we intend to:

- develop a termly performance opportunity, so each pupil participates in at least one musical performance per term through worship, class show and tell, year group assemblies.
- continue expanding extracurricular groups as capacity grows

These improvements support the 7 features of high-quality provision by strengthening curriculum depth, instrumental learning pathways, staff development, progression, and performance opportunities.