



Great Horwood Church of England School

Music Development Plan Summary

“Where our children play, learn and grow together” knowing that Jesus said:

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” *John 15:5*

At Great Horwood Church of England School, the academic, emotional and spiritual well-being of all individuals is at the heart of all that we do; where every child is valued. We are a safe, welcoming school within the heart of the village community that aims to provide all our children and adults with the learning opportunities to flourish, be healthy, grow in resilience and realise their full potential; being fully equipped and prepared for a successful future.

Inspired by Christian faith and rooted in the teachings, values and spirituality of the Church of England we embrace our core values of love, perseverance and respect where all individuals learn to value themselves and others.

We are committed to setting high standards of achievement within a caring and nurturing learning environment. We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop a curiosity of learning, a thirst for knowledge through play, and an exploration of the world around them.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	1 st September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Paula Shaw
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Paula Shaw
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how Great Horwood School delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas: curriculum music, music enrichment and musical experiences. It highlights the 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.

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.

The National Curriculum states that 'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.' Our Music curriculum has been designed to cover all the skills, knowledge and understanding as set out in the National Curriculum using the 'Model' Music curriculum 2021 document as guidance.

Information about our intent and implementation of music can be found on the Music page of the school website. This can be accessed here: [Music | Great Horwood Church of England School](#).

The Kapow music scheme of work was introduced at Great Horwood School in September 2023 to ensure teachers were confident that the skills and knowledge they were teaching met the needs of our children and developed them as musicians.

Curriculum music lessons are timetabled for all classes in Key Stage 1 and 2 weekly. Currently timings range from 45 minutes to an hour per week. We aim that during the academic year 2025-2026 each class will increase the time spent on curriculum music so that all children receive an hour of taught music a week.

In our Early Years setting children will continue to sing songs and rhymes regularly and use the music instruments in continuous provision activities and during short class music sessions.

During curriculum lessons times pupils have the opportunity to play and sing a range of instruments as they sing, play and compose music. during 2025-2026 we aim that children in Key stage 2 will learn to play a pitched instrument as part of their curriculum lessons. Year 3 and 4 are learning to play the recorder in 2025-2026 and have 30-minute lessons.

As a school we have contact with the Buckinghamshire Music hub for support and guidance.

Music Enrichment

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.

Great Horwood School currently offers guitar peripatetic lessons weekly. These lessons are either 1:1 or in small groups. These are private lessons payable to the guitar teacher.

We have a weekly whole school singing practice assembly where a range of songs and hymns are taught. Due to the size of the school, we are very much a large choir of 90 pupils!

In 2025-2026 we aim to introduce a much smaller singing ensemble (mini choir) where we can specialise in more complex songs, with 2 or more parts, and more be more challenging musically.

Pupils often participate in singing in class, movement breaks in Key Stage 1 and 2 include singing and movement. Some classes sing lunchtime and end of day prayers, as well as the Makaton 'Goodbye' song. In Key Stage 1, they also sing the 'Star of the day' song.

In Nursery and Reception class they have weekly Jabadeo music and dance movement sessions. Other pupils across the school can join in Jabadeo after school. There is a small charge for this session as part of after school club.

Pupils can attend the Buckingham music school on a Saturday and join the Great Horwood Silver (brass) Band. Pupils can also join Stagecoach Buckingham either on a Saturday or evenings after school. This specialises in music theatre performance and includes, singing and dance.

In the past we have held music events within our ODBST hub schools. These have included a choir festival to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We have also had groups of children learn to play the recorder and xylophones. We hope to re-introduce these clubs at lunchtime in 2025-2026

Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts, and productions.

During the school year a range of exciting musical experiences are planned. Please see details below for our plans for 2025-2026

Autumn Term:

- ✓ Silver Band Concert 'Proms in the Playground'
- ✓ Carol singing at the Great Horwood village hall. A special time to perform to members of the village community.
- ✓ Carol Singing at the school Christmas Fayre around the Christmas tree. A community sing-along for pupils, staff, and parents.
- ✓ EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) and Key Stage Nativity performance – An opportunity for our youngest pupils to tell the greatest story ever told to their parents and the rest of the school.

Spring Term:

- ✓ A visit from the Pantomime; An opportunity for the whole school to watch a pantomime and join in the songs, actions and dances.
- ✓ Candlemass and Easter services offer opportunities to perform poems and songs.
- ✓ Experience Easter concert – performed by the whole school choir and singing ensemble groups.

Summer Term:

- ✓ Guitar Ensemble concert – an opportunity for those having guitar lessons to showcase what they have been learning during the year.
- ✓ Silver Band Concert 'Proms in the Playground' - Great Horwood Village silver band perform a concert to the whole school an opportunity to learn about and listen to a wide range of brass instruments.
- ✓ Buckinghamshire Music Hub Schools Music Performance. An opportunity for the whole school to listen to an orchestra play and then sing some practiced songs whilst being accompanied by the performers.
- ✓ Hawthorns (Year 5 & 6) End of year production – an opportunity for year 5 and 6 to perform to the rest of the school a range of songs and movement.
- ✓ End of year Leavers Service at St James Church is a special time to sing uplifting songs to celebrate the end of the year and the year 6 pupils moving on.

Plans for the Future

- To increase the amount of lesson time spent on music to 1 hour a week in Key Stage 1 and 2.
- To increase the opportunities for singing and performing
- To run a 'mini' choir at lunchtime.
- To participate for the first time in either 'Young Voices' or 'Echoes' in 2027
- To organise a ODBST School Hub music event (choir and instrumental)
- To explore the possibility of having more peripatetic teachers
- To create a music instrumental register for pupils and parents so that we can showcase their talents in school worship and at events.

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.

Information about Music Education Hubs can be found here: [music hub](#)

Model Music Curriculum March 2021 can be accessed here: [Model Music Curriculum \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education can be found here: [The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)