

Music development plan summary 2026-2027: Howe Dell School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jodi Cattermole
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tracy Prickett
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our learners across three areas: curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences. It also includes 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 learners' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time and how much time is spent teaching music.

Music is all around us and is the soundtrack to our lives. At Howe Dell School we promote a life-long love of music. Our curriculum commences in Early Years and our music lessons have a clear progression of skills, knowledge and vocabulary which are over the year and years. Our curriculum is designed to be accessible for all.

The music curriculum is published on our website and we use Charanga as the delivery model. <https://www.howedell.herts.sch.uk/music/>

Charanga incorporates the aims and subject content of the Music National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). The MMC sets out sequences of learning in the following key areas which, when taken together, all contribute towards the steadily increasing development of musicianship:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

All of these key areas are embedded within the Charanga Curriculum resource.

Music at Howe Dell is taught on a weekly basis through a Charanga lesson (30-40 minutes) and a phased weekly singing lesson led by music practitioners (30 minutes).

As part of the lesson time, Charanga has a dedicated section within every teaching sequence across the year and over the years where classes learn to sing and learn to play songs in an ensemble. There is a class set of glockenspiels and a range of tuned percussion instruments for learners to use. This then leads to improvisation and composition.

The weekly singing sessions are pitched accurately to enable learners to achieve the expected outcomes in singing at the end of the phase. They use the vocal principles outlined in the MMC to develop vocal skills across the key stages. A variety of resources are used including the Charanga sing section which includes; reading scores and part-singing. The songs taught in the weekly singing sessions are subsequently performed to parents as part of our annual 'Celebration of Music'.

In addition, Year 4 learners have the opportunity to learn a stringed instrument for the academic year as part of the 'classroom instrumental learning' programme delivered by the Hertfordshire Music Service.

In the Autumn term 2026, Year 4 learners are part of the Hatfield House Music Festival project. They will get the opportunity to listen to other schools perform at Hatfield House with the Purcell School musicians. This enables them to have first-hand experience of the stringed instruments they will be learning to play.

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.

At Howe Dell we have a termly plan for music to listen to during assemblies. This music is changed fortnightly to enable assembly leaders to discuss the piece in depth enabling learners to refine and develop their listening skills and to increase their knowledge and musical vocabulary. The termly programme uses the MMC recommendations, the BBC 'ten pieces' and the Charanga listening centre which provides facts, information and questions about the piece of music. There is also a historical timeline which enables the learners to understand the piece of music within the historical context.

For 2026-2027, the school offers one to one peripatetic lessons for piano. This is provided through the Hertfordshire Music Service. The school has pianos and keyboards that are available for children to practise. For families in particular circumstances the school applies their charging and remissions policy.

The school also offers 'Rock Steady' peripatetic sessions which are weekly group sessions where children learn to play in a band. On a termly basis they perform to their parents. There is a subsidised place which the school allocates accordingly.

Following on from the success of the 'Howe Dell' singers in 2025-2026, the school has created a school choir. This is led by a music specialist within the school. There are plans for the choir to perform in school and at local venues such as the local care home and the local shopping centre.

Howe Dell also offers DRUMBA which is an energetic fusion of music and dance. Children of all ages participate in age appropriate sessions and develop music and movement with a love of exercise and music!

At Howe Dell we will actively encourage our 'stand out' learners in Music to participate in Co-curricular activities.

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.

For each musical event and opportunity, we organise we use the EDI lens to enable us to accurately target the experience. This may be for the whole school or for specific year groups or groups of learners.

For 2026-2027, every class (from Reception to Year 6) will hold a class assembly. Parents are invited to the assembly and children showcase their learning across the curriculum. At this assembly, the class will perform a song.

Across the year, classes lead key significant events:

Year 3: Christingle, Year 4: Harvest, Year 5: Remembrance. These events include musical performance and parents are invited to join the school.

In December, Nursery and Reception children will perform Christmas songs to their parents and at the end of the Spring term they undertake a 'Spring Spectacular' where they perform to the school and parents on the stage in the hall. The production includes singing and drama.

Year 1 and Year 2 will perform a Christmas themed production and Year 6 have an end of year production. All of these performances include music and drama.

For all these events, children across the school are performing and are part of the audience.

As part of the ongoing provision, children listen, appraise and sing in assemblies.

In March 2027 Howe Dell will be part of the 'voice in a million' concert .at Wembley

In April 2027 we have 'Howe Dell's Got Talent' which involves an audition process and a final with judges. One of our previous judges was part of the Electric Umbrella crew

who performed in Britain's got Talent in 2025 and in 2027, the 2025 winner will be part of the panel!

For the past two years, Howe Dell has worked with the Electric Umbrella and performed at St Albans Abbey as part of their 'shine a light' concert. We are hoping that this opportunity will be available for us to join in 2027.

In June 2027, a music concert will be held for children to perform the singing learned in weekly practises as well as songs learned through Charanga. Instrumentalists will also perform as part of this musical revue. Parents have also requested to be part of the performance with their child.

For the vast majority of these events there is no charge to parents. Where a voluntary donation is required, the charging and remissions policy is applied.

In the future

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

To widen the extra-curricular offer (to include Boomwhackers and percussion led sessions), singing for more age groups and recorders which includes the development of young musician leadership

To work with a local primary school and their music specialist to create a musical discovery experience

To continue to develop links with Secondary Schools to provide learners with musical experiences

To perform at the 'Voice in a million' concert at Wembley Arena (March 2027)

Further information (optional)

To successfully deliver the music offer across the school, teachers need to be provided with high quality professional development to enable them to be confident with the teaching and enriching of music. For 2026-2027, the in-house music specialist will lead a PD session on composition and how to use the Charanga resources effectively.

In June 2025, Music was selected as a 'deep dive' as part of the Ofsted Inspection. The inspectors observed lessons led by teachers, the 'wider opportunities' session led by Hertfordshire Music Service and a singing assembly. Using evidence from Padlet, the inspectors could see how the music strategy was embedded with school's practice.