

Music development plan summary: Upton Cross Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	26.3.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	26.4.27
Name of the school music lead	Jessica Penrose
Headteacher	Alison Downing
Name of local music hub	PROGRAMME ASONE Hub (asoneperform.com)
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.

At Leedstown CP School we use the ‘Charanga’ scheme to deliver our music lessons (as recommended by ASONE hub). This ensures our lessons have clear coverage, purpose and follow on from one another. It also allows non-specialist music leaders to teach in a specialist manner. Wider curriculum subjects, including music, are taught equally throughout the academic year, with time allocated appropriately; this includes in our EYFS and nursery year groups. Using the Charanga scheme, we ensure The Foundation Stage curriculum and Music National Curriculum criteria are met.

Charanga provides a comprehensive and well-sequenced programme that aligns with the National Curriculum and supports teachers with clear progression in skills, knowledge and vocabulary. It offers a wide range of high-quality, age-appropriate songs and activities designed to develop musicianship through listening and responding, singing, performing, composing, improvising and evaluating. The curriculum is structured to build confidence for non-specialist teachers, providing detailed lesson plans, modelling videos and flexible resources that support both whole-class teaching and differentiated approaches. Charanga’s focus on singing and playing instruments as a foundation for musical learning complements our school’s endeavour for children to enjoy learning music. Music has so many benefits to the brain both physically, through mathematical learning, dexterity, listening skills, kinaesthetic learning, creativity, reasoning; and it is also beneficial to mental health, growing children’s



self-confidence, sensitivity towards others, supporting children to be part of a group and causing the brain to create endorphins, oxytocin and other positive neurotransmitters. The enjoyment children feel when creating music helps them to learn, fostering strong pitch awareness, rhythm, teamwork and musical expression. Following Charanga ensures a variety of genres, styles and cultural traditions creating a broad and balanced musical experience for all children.

Singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, and musical vocabulary are at the heart of each and every lesson. Music is inclusive for all pupils, with adaptations and scaffolding provided where appropriate.

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.

Children at Leedstown CP School have many opportunities to learn about music and engage with a variety of instruments during their time with us.

Our school choir (open to all year groups) runs as an extra-curricular club, enhancing opportunities for pupils to sing together. This runs at lunchtime to encourage inclusivity to all. We are planning to take part in some performances in the near future including the Christmas lights parade and switch-on and singing at a local care home. The choir plan to participate in events through ASONE Music Hub including Choirfest in the cathedral, Songfest and The Big Sing at the Hall for Cornwall.

Throughout their time at Leedstown CP school, all children receive the opportunity to work with a visiting specialist music teacher. This is funded through ASONE Perform CIC. Specialist teachers visit and deliver 12 music sessions where children are taught an instrument: the ukulele, violin, trumpet, keyboard etc. This also upskills our teachers, who may not be specialist musicians. This is called First Access and all children are eligible for this funding.

We are also host peripatetic music teachers who offer instrumental lessons during the school day. This is funded by parents with subsidies offered for disadvantaged children. We currently provide guitar and piano lessons. All children who learn a musical instrument have the opportunity to perform to their peers during music lessons and sometimes assemblies throughout the year when appropriate.

Singing and nursery rhymes are at the heart of our learning in Early Years, with children learning and performing a new nursery rhyme every week. We understand the importance that oracy through music can offer a young, developing brain.

At Leedstown we understand the importance of offering opportunities to grow skills and interests of young children so that they can 'try things out' and discover what they would like to pursue.

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.

Children at Leedstown School enjoy a variety of musical experiences.

Oracy through music is at the forefront of every music lesson. We practise listening and appraising a variety of musical genres and composers. The children enjoy answering targeted questions which guides discussion. The children learn to identify and respond to music using specific musical terminology: pitch, rhythm, tempo etc. They also learn to identify musical structures; whether they like a specific genre of music, or can hear specific musical instruments.

We also offer opportunities for additional music through our weekly singing assemblies. These often include a section of appraising and practical skills to do with specific musical terms. The school learns to sing a variety of songs together. These are tailored towards the current season or celebration: ie, harvest, Easter, etc. We appreciate the importance of learning to use our voices through song but we also appreciate the sense of belonging and togetherness that singing together brings our school. This experience is shared by performing to parents, and the local community.

Additionally, we often have music assemblies. We invite musicians or bands to come and perform at our school. This gives children the opportunity to experience hearing live music, watching live musicians and asking questions. We truly want to encourage children to chase any passions and interests that they may have and try to offer as many opportunities to support this as possible. So far this year, we have had a ukulele band, a brass teacher, a guitar teacher and a Cornish singing group visit us.

Children at Leedstown School are also given the opportunity to be part of school productions; whether this be at Christmas, Summer or at other times throughout the year. These may include singing, performing with instruments or other musical opportunities.

In the future

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

Next Steps:

- **Choir:** To further develop our choir and encourage children to partake in some performances or competitions.
- **Further develop our peripatetic music teachers** to offer more opportunities to learn instruments.
- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Enhance collaboration with Hayle Secondary School to explore musical integrations and opportunities
- **Integrate Music Technology:** Develop the use of music technology within the curriculum to enrich teaching and learning.

Further information (optional)

On 1st April 2022, ASONE Perform CIC became the lead organisation for the music hub in Cornwall. The ASONE Hub is a partnership of local and regional organisations working together to support the music education of young people in Cornwall. The Hub leads on the strategic development of music education locally and works with a variety of organisations and individuals to meet local needs. They are constantly striving to ensure that we reach all children and young people, regardless of age, location, or interests.

The ASONE mission is to create aspirational and innovative opportunities for children and young people in Cornwall to enjoy a diverse and inclusive music education which is supported collaboratively across our network of partners.

The ASONE vision is that all children and young people in Cornwall can engage and progress with high quality, innovative and inspirational music making opportunities which are relevant to them.