

Music development plan summary: Queensgate Foundation Primary School

The National Plan for Music Education has a vision to enable children from all backgrounds and every part of England to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument; to make music with others; to learn to sing; and to have the opportunity to progress to the next level of excellence.

At Queensgate Foundation Primary School, we have a qualified music teacher two days a week that leads our curriculum and enrichment offer to all children. Every child at Queensgate will have the opportunity to learn instruments suitable for their age throughout their time at the school. The curriculum is built around the New Model Music Curriculum and incorporates singing, listening, improvising, composing, and performing throughout every topic.

Singing will underpin the whole of the curriculum and children will develop their voices and aptitude in singing a wide range of songs from simple action songs to rounds and harmony singing. Songs from other cultures and in other languages will be explored and all of this is complemented by weekly singing assemblies where the relevant Key Stage group can sing together in the hall. Choir will be offered as an enrichment club and smaller group singing in lunchtime to extend and challenge those ready for more complex harmony singing.

In the Early Years children will be introduced to tuned and untuned percussion gaining control of some of the most basic elements of music; tempo, dynamics, starting, stopping, and following the lead of a conductor or peer leader.

In Year One and Two children will be introduced to the Glockenspiel, Ocarina and Boom whacker to build a knowledge of simple notations and playing as an ensemble. Compositions will be built on soundscapes with simple stimuli and listening will be based on creating pictures in imagination and through sound.

Year Three have weekly recorder lessons to build co-ordination, control, and knowledge of staff notation. Ensemble playing will build listening skills, following direction, and adding the elements of music through articulation and dynamics. A recorder clinic will be held at break-time to give extra support to those that are struggling and to give them a bit of one-to-one advice and help.

Year Four will move on to the Toot to recap their fingering knowledge and mastery of the recorder. The Toot is a baby flute and uses many of the same techniques and fingering of the recorder and hopefully may encourage the take up of the flute as an instrument. Building children's access to woodwind instruments is one of the key aspects of the school's overall development plan and the Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 programme of study supports this.

Year Five and Six are topic based and each topic will include all the elements of the Model Music Curriculum. The children will be introduced to the keyboard and the ukulele to give their performances and compositions a myriad of opportunity for variety and contrast in their own compositions, improvisations, and ensemble performances.

We are supported by our highly talented peripatetic team offering one to one and small group tuition on guitar, piano and violin. We hope that our focus on woodwind this year will lead to the addition of woodwind peripatetic teaching by the end of the academic year 2025.

Our local music hub is key to our delivery of musical experiences and outside performances for our children and at Queensgate we have a strong tradition of taking part in the Big Sings, the Christmas singing at Osborne and Carisbrooke, the local music, dance, and drama festival and inviting performers into the school. Last year we hosted performances from Platform One and hope to do the same in this coming year. We will hopefully be hosting the London Sinfonietta next term and will join with the hub in all their singing programmes throughout the year. We will also be looking at opportunities to go over to Southampton or Portsmouth to experience a concert in a theatre setting.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Indra Riches
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Southampton and Isle of Wight
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Wight Music Tuition

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.

Curriculum music is delivered on rotation with the out and about and cookery programme. Each year group gets at least two terms of curriculum music per year plus fortnightly singing assemblies and weekly access to extra-curricular opportunities.

Each year group is taught as a half class meaning that numbers in each class are small which facilitates greater concentration of teacher support and a conducive environment for those with special educational needs (SEND).

Year 3 receive a weekly half an hour of dedicated recorder tuition for the whole of the year.

The curriculum is based around the Model Music Curriculum and its core objectives of singing, listening, improvising, composing and performing as laid out in the summary above.

Queensgate music curriculum is based around an equal split of topic-based learning including projects on Big Emotions, Musical Storytelling (Year 1) Beat and rhythm, How do I sound? (Year 2), Around the World and Time Traveller (Year 4), Sounds of Autumn, the Run up to Christmas, (Year 5) Music of War, Drama! (Year 6) and skills-based learning on instruments such as Boom whackers, Ocarinas, Glockenspiels, Recorders, Toots, Keyboards and Ukuleles. Through this study children understand the transferable skills of note reading from symbols and colours, then rhythm notation and staff notation across a range of instruments. In composition children are encouraged to explore graphic symbols to record their ideas before moving on to simple dot and staff notation scores.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

One to one and small group tuition on piano, violin and guitar is offered at Queensgate outside of music curriculum time. We have two visiting teachers that offer those lessons: one private tutor and one from Wight Music Tuition.

Our aim is to grow the interest in taking up a string instrument and hopefully add woodwind to our peripatetic offer. Finances are often a barrier to individual music tuition, and we work hard to make sure that all Pupil Premium and Free School Meal children are funded if they wish to take part in these individual lessons. Children can also access grants through Wight Music Tuition but better signposting to these opportunities could be looked at. Equally, there are new initiatives through the music hub that may enable more children to access small group or individual lessons. This needs to be investigated.

Children that take up individual lessons can loan an instrument for free through the school on completion of a loan form – this ensures that the instrument is taken care of and returned in a good condition.

The music room is open and manned at break and lunchtimes on Tuesday and Wednesday and students are encouraged to use that time to come and practice on their instruments or seek some extra help and guidance during that time.

Queensgate has a choir on a Tuesday after school which is well attended and busy with concerts throughout the year and currently a 'recorder clinic' at break time to give extra support to students in Year 3. There is also small vocal group ensemble time given at lunchtime to rehearse for events and to stretch and challenge the most vocally vocally. Running up to Christmas this may change to an ensemble activity to prepare for Christmas concerts. This may include handbell ringing or similar.

Children are signposted to hub and Isle of Wight wide musical activities and events such as the string workshops at Osborne House and could be signposted to the training bands if interest in woodwind and brass playing could be encouraged. Hopefully the orchestra visit in January will encourage conversation about other instruments and interest can be gauged.

Part C: Musical events and 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.

Singing assemblies take place each week on a rotation for KS1 and KS2. This is a chance for all students to come together and sing in a large group. The songs are varied and link to events that are happening (Harvest, Christmas etc) as well as meeting the Model Music Curriculum of singing in rounds, action songs, songs from different cultures etc.

Queensgate takes part in a wide variety of events hosted by the music hub including the Big Sing in summer, the Mardi Gras, the Christmas sings at Osborne and / or Carisbrooke, the Shanty Sing last year and the Biosphere project. This year the offer is similar, and we intend to take part in all that are convenient subject to other school commitments.

We intend to get Year 3 involved in the recorder extravaganza next April / May where school children from across the Island come together to perform specially composed pieces with differentiated recorder parts at a venue yet to be decided. Last year this coincided with the Fairest Isle Festival and took place in Ventnor.

The Music, dance and drama festival is a long-standing tradition at Queensgate, and we hope to enter our choir once again in March 2025. We have always been very successful in these classes and intend to keep our standing!

Queensgate will be welcoming London Sinfonietta in January for a workshop with KS2 and a graduate performance from Platform One towards the summer term. We will be looking at the feasibility of taking a year group over to see the BSO in Portsmouth or Southampton at one of the hub events – this will be subject to costings of transport (parent paid) and logistics of ferry times.

In the future

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

- Increasing the breadth of the peripatetic instrumental offer to include woodwind.
- Exploring what grants and financial aid is available to children where financial issues are barriers to small group or one to one music tuition.
- Identification and encouragement of those children who have an aptitude for music.
- To embed the variety of skills learnt each year on classroom instruments through the curriculum and into ensemble playing.

Further information (optional)

- Siowmusic.org is the link to the Southampton and Isle of Wight Music Hub
- WMT is the Island's peripatetic instrumental service.
- Music Craft in Newport is another company offering affordably group and one to one music tuition and beginner ensembles.
- Medina Marching Band has a training band for young musicians with plenty of opportunity for tuition, instrument, and uniform loan.