Music development plan summary: Marie Weller Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 to 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026, updated 29 October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Beth Hirons
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Dan Cox, Headteacher
Name of local music hub	Northamptonshire Music Education Hub, lead partner NMPAT
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School, Young Voices

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our children 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 children and their parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our children's 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 children can achieve.

Every child at Marie Weller has a weekly music lesson of about 30 minutes, from Reception through to Year 5, taught by their own class teacher with their own class. Every class also takes part in a 20-minute singing assembly each Thursday, so children have about 50 minutes of music a week. Lessons are fully inclusive and all children learn music with their class.

We follow Charanga, which is designed to meet the statutory requirements of the national curriculum for music. It is built as a spiral curriculum, so children do not meet a musical

concept once and move on. They return to it in a later unit and a later year, each time in a new context and at greater depth, which is how musical skill actually develops.

Every unit is practical. Children are not learning about music from a distance: in each one they listen and appraise, sing, play instruments, improvise, compose and perform. They work with music from a wide range of genres, traditions and periods rather than a narrow selection, and they learn about the composers and musicians behind it.

Charanga comes with substantial built-in support and training for teachers, including modelled lessons and resources for every activity. This matters to us. It means the quality of music teaching a child receives does not depend on whether their class teacher happens to have a musical background, and every child gets the same entitlement wherever they sit in the school.

Our music curriculum and progression of skills, including how we increase access for disabled children and support children with special educational needs, are published on the curriculum pages of our website.

Marie Weller is a growing school. Our oldest children are in Year 5 in 2026/27 and our first Year 6 cohort starts in September 2027, so the curriculum will extend into Year 6 from that point.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for children to sing and play music outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how children can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Children in Year 3 and above can learn violin, bass or keyboard through peripatetic lessons taught by NMPAT teachers in school, and other instruments can be added where there is enough interest. Details of how to arrange lessons, including costs and any support available, are available from the school office.

This year we are launching a whole-class First Access project with NMPAT, teaching wind instruments to Year 3 and Year 5 in the second half of the autumn term. Running it early in the year gives children who want to carry on the rest of the year to keep playing. We are running two year groups this year, while the school is still small, so that our oldest children get the experience before they leave us rather than missing it. From 2027/28 First Access will run with a single year group. Every child in those year groups learns an instrument, not only those whose families arrange lessons, and the project finishes with a performance so that the children play what they have learned to an audience.

Our Key Stage 2 choir runs for a second year, led by Mrs Lucie Wickham, and growing the choir is one of our priorities for 2026/27. The choir is open to any child in Key Stage 2 who wants to sing. There is no audition and no cost.

Rocksteady run band lessons every Friday, where children play drums, keyboard, guitar, bass or sing as part of a band from their first session. Rocksteady bands perform in a concert each term.

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.

Singing and performing are a regular part of the year at Marie Weller, not something saved for one event. Every child performs to an audience in front of their families at least twice a year, and children learning an instrument perform far more often than that.

Rocksteady bands perform in a concert each term, on 27 November 2026, 12 March 2027 and 16 July 2027, and NMPAT hold a showcase for parents and carers once a term, where children who learn with them play what they have been working on. These are deliberately frequent and low key, so that performing becomes ordinary rather than nerve-racking.

Harvest. Our harvest assembly is led by clergy from St Lawrence Church on 1 October 2026, and each phase then performs for parents and carers: Key Stage 2 on 9 October, Key Stage 1 on 16 October, and our EYFS children sing at a Harvest Song and Stay and Play session on 22 October.

Christmas. Every child takes part in a Christmas performance in December 2026. EYFS perform on 8 December, Key Stage 1 on 9 December and Key Stage 2 on 10 December. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 perform twice, in the morning and again in the evening, so that working parents can come.

Young Voices. Our choir takes part in the Young Voices concert on 8 January 2027. Singing in an arena alongside thousands of other children is, for most of them, the biggest musical experience of their primary years.

Easter. We mark Easter with our Easter Bonnet Parade on 25 March 2027, and classes visit the Easter Experience at St Lawrence Church during the week of 8 March.

First Access performance. At the end of the project, Year 3 and Year 5 perform on the wind instruments they have learned.

Midsummer Music Festival. We perform again at the Midsummer Music Festival in the summer term.

In the future

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

Curriculum music

We will extend our music curriculum into Year 6 as the school completes its growth in September 2027, and timetable a full hour of curriculum music a week for every class from that point.

We will continue to teach music through Charanga, with class teachers supported by the scheme's training and modelled lessons, and we will continue to work with NMPAT so that peripatetic specialist teachers come into school to teach children instruments.

Co-curricular music

We will establish the First Access wind project with NMPAT and then build on it, so that instrumental learning is not limited to the children whose families can arrange individual lessons.

We will grow our Key Stage 2 choir, so that a larger proportion of our children sing regularly and perform.

We will grow instrumental provision deliberately towards what is needed at Sponne School, so that children who start an instrument with us can carry it on when they leave rather than stopping at the end of Year 6.

Musical experiences

All children will continue to have opportunities to perform for their parents and carers, and for the whole school, across the school year.

We will continue to give our choir experiences beyond school, including Young Voices and the Midsummer Music Festival, and we will create further opportunities for the children learning instruments to perform in front of their peers, families and friends.

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.

If you would like to know more about music at Marie Weller, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office.