

Music development plan summary: Exwick Heights Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jane Mabin Chris Willett
Name of local music hub	Devon Music Education Hub

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.

- Music is taught in half-termly blocks, an hour a week, alternating with computing.
- All children from Nursery to Year 6 also take part in half an hour of singing once a week, led by a specialist teacher.
- There are two specialists in the school: Jane Mabin and Chris Willett. Jane Mabin is now based at another trust school, Matford Brook Academy, but returns to lead singing, wider access in KS1 and instrumental ensembles.
- Our curriculum offering is based upon the Kapow scheme of work, ensuring that the learning is spiral; continuously embedded and looped throughout the children's time at Exwick Heights. A particular strength of the Kapow programme, other than ensuring curriculum coverage, is the quality of provision offered for non-specialist teachers. Each lesson contains a 'how to video' and / or a 'watch first', ensuring that practitioners are fully equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence needed to deliver high-quality curriculum music sessions.

- The two specialist teachers involved with EHPS ensure that whole class instrumental sessions form an integral part of the curriculum. Ukulele and violin are taught at KS1 (the school have their own sets) and a rolling programme of guitar / keyboard / djembe drums feature at KS2 (this will depend to some extent on availability of instrument hire from DMH)

Part B: Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles

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.

- Exwick Heights offers private music tuition in the following instruments: Violin, Piano, Woodwind (clarinet, flute, saxophone), Guitar, Singing.
- Lessons are taken in 20 min / half slots. Some children receive 1:1 lessons, others are part of a small group with up to 4 children'
- PP children receive fully subsidised lessons on one instrument.
- Teachers at the school either operate through Music Devon or cover the invoicing and administration of the lessons themselves.
- Regular music 'showcases' are held each year (especially in September) to recruit new students and to celebrate the work of the current students.
- An after-school choir is held weekly, co-ordinated by Chris Willett. This draws children (invite only) from Years 4 to 6. A small, termly contribution is asked for, in line with other after-school, clubs. PP children receive full remission of fees.
- During the summer term, Chris Willett also runs a Samba Band.
- Other, ad-hoc choirs and ensembles are formed when opportunities arise. EG: Station carol singing group (Year 2), Community fete group (Year 2/3/4), Exeter Cathedral singing group (Year 3 / 4 / 5 / 6), small instrumental ensembles for Christmas performances (Years 2-6) . There are no fees for these groups. Rehearsals normally take place during school time.
- During the academic year 2025/26, Jane Mabin would like to lead a beginner recorder group and a starter orchestra. There are several players now at grade 1-2 level that would make this a viable and very worthwhile project.

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.

Musical Experiences 2024/25 academic year included:

- Singing in assembly (Year R – 6)
- Early Years Harvest Celebration
- Christmas performances as follows:
 - Pre-School / Reception nativity
 - Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert
 - Year 3/4 Christmas Concert
 - Year 5/6 Christmas Concert
- Choir and Samba events in the community (local fete), school summer fair
- Visiting groups / musicians (in addition to the visiting teacher showcases detailed above)
 - Cameron Mills Rock Band
- Workshops: Taiko Drumming (Reception and Year 1), Cameron Mills Band in a Day (Year 5), Colin Rae singing (Year 2 and 3)
- Year 6 production (*Aladdin*)
- Visit to watch the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain
- Ukulele parent workshop
- Samba band performed at summer fair
- Year 6 singers performed at summer fair
- Music Evening – a showcase for all the children who learn instruments

Events planned for 2025/26 year:

- Harvest festival for reception and nursery
- Instrumental teacher showcases
- Christmas events for ALL year groups (N / R nativity, Year 1/2 celebration of Christmas, Year 3/4 and 5/6 Carols in the Playground)
- Community Events with the choir
- Stringbeans
- Parent workshops: ukulele and violin
- Outreach whole class instrumental outreach work with trust schools (eg Whipton, MBA)
- Year 1/ 2 Easter event
- Summer concert for years 1 to 6
- Other visits by local groups, as and when the opportunities arise.
- Taking the newly-formed orchestra to perform at events, eg Devon County Show

We are supported by Devon Music Hub who occasionally suggest visiting groups or soloists. We do not charge the children for taking part in any of these events.

In the future

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

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

- Add brass and drumming tuition to the list of available teachers (trumpet, cornet, trombone). Aim to have done this by June 2026
- Work towards setting up two instrumental ensembles: recorders and a small orchestra (complete summer 2026)
- Long term goal – set up orchestra / music centre as a centre of excellence for Exeter primary schools. Children attend EHPS once a week to enjoy an ensemble and other musical activities, led by JM (end of summer 2027 / 28)
- Collaboration between EHPS and MBA – singing / wider access opportunities etc
- Involvement with Young Voices during the 2026/7 academic year.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.