Music development plan summary:
Tewin Cowper Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Nicole Downing
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Katheryn Wilson
Name of local music hub	Hertford Music Centre
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

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

Our music lessons are based around the planning provided by Kapow, which we also use for a number of other foundation subjects. Our lessons are part of a spiral curriculum: musical concepts are regularly revisited and built on cumulatively year on year. This provides regular opportunities to practise and develop, helping to promote secure understanding.

Music lessons are taught weekly for a minimum of the following length of time:

• Reception – 30 minutes (with opportunities for child-initiated musical activities throughout the week)

• Key Stage 1 – 45 minutes

• Key Stage 2 – 1 hour

Everyone takes part in music lessons, no matter what their level of musical understanding might be. We believe music can be therapeutic, thought-provoking, relaxing, invigorating, challenging, inclusive and, most of all, fun. We plan and tailor lessons to the needs of the children in each class, anticipating potential difficulties and barriers. This ensures that each child can access learning at their own level of expertise and understanding.

In 2023–2024, two classes took part in the English National Opera (ENO) 'Finish This…' project. Children composed music in groups to represent words associated with 'colour', recorded their ideas using graphic scores and combined their work in a class performance using voice, body percussion and instruments. Our Year 3 class's recording was among a small number selected for animation. This is an example of the creative musical experiences previously offered at our school.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Our extra-curricular musical opportunities include:

• Piano lessons

• Singing for Fun club

• Rocksteady Music School band lessons

Piano lessons are paid for by parents, while Singing for Fun is free of charge. Rocksteady lessons are funded by the school and/or parents, depending on the arrangements for individual pupils.

Rocksteady offers in-school small-group rock and pop band lessons. Children learn instrumental and ensemble skills while playing together, developing confidence, teamwork, listening and performance skills. As part of the Rocksteady programme, children perform in a concert-style event each term, sharing their musical progress with families and the school community. Further information is available at www.rocksteadymusicschool.com.

We want to continue increasing opportunities to learn musical instruments both during and beyond curriculum lessons, including subsidised or free lessons where possible. Children also have opportunities to hear performances from other pupils, people in the community, and visiting groups. Singing for Fun has performed for local community groups and at school events. We also work with churches in our diocese, which sometimes lead music-based assemblies or provide singing opportunities beyond school.

Part C: Musical experiences

Singing is a key part of our musical offering at Tewin Cowper. All children have the opportunity to sing during daily assemblies, and singing techniques are explicitly taught in our weekly singing assembly. Children also sing in class, both during music lessons and at other points in the school day, for enjoyment and to support learning in other subjects, such as French vocabulary and times tables. Singing, rhythm, and rhyme are particularly emphasised in Reception and Key Stage 1 because they support listening skills and language acquisition.

Each class leads a church service at St Peter's Church once a year, performing at least one song linked to the service theme. Classes also have opportunities to attend and participate in services throughout the year, and families are invited to watch their child's class service. During 2026–2027, we plan a similar programme of productions: Reception and Years 1 and 2 will take part in a Nativity, Years 3 and 4 will perform together in a combined spring production, and Years 5 and 6 will take part in end-of-year productions. These provide opportunities for children to sing and perform together in groups. Other musical opportunities include Maypole celebrations and Singing for Fun performances.

Children participating in Rocksteady perform in a concert-style event each term as part of the programme, celebrating the skills they have developed in their bands.

Our school took part in Young Voices during 2025–2026 but is not participating in Young Voices in the 2026–2027 academic year.

We welcome visits and performances from inspiring musicians in the community and further afield. In a previous year, for example, a former Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and London Symphony Orchestra trumpet player performed for pupils and discussed his musical career. Experiences like these help children develop aspirations and motivate them to pursue their interests.

In the future

We aim to expand and sustain access to musical instrument lessons, with opportunities offered within the curriculum and through additional provision, including Rocksteady. We will explore ways to make music learning accessible to more families, including subsidised or free opportunities where possible.

We would like to encourage more children to join Singing for Fun and take part in performances and other shared musical experiences. Although we are not taking part in Young Voices this year, we will continue to explore suitable larger-scale singing opportunities in future.

We also want families to become more involved in music at school, whether by sharing their musical expertise, performing for classes or enjoying music-making at home with their children. Our aim is to foster a lifelong love of music.

Our work continues to be informed by the Department for Education's non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (2021) and The Power of Music to Change Lives: A National Plan for Music Education (2022). We work with our local music hub, part of Hertfordshire Music Service, for advice and training as needed. We will review future national curriculum developments as they are introduced.