

Swallowtail Music Development Plan



With friendship, trust and kindness, we fly!



Overview

Detail	Information
Current Academic Year	2025-2026
Summary Publication Date	October 2025
Summary Review Date	September 2026
Name of School Music Lead	Mrs. Allison Pell
Name of Local Music Hub	Norfolk Music Hub

This is a summary of how our Federation delivers Music to all of our pupils from Reception to Year 6: Through our curriculum, extra curricular activities and musical experiences, fostering spirituality.

Part A: Music Curriculum

In the Swallowtail Federation, we use the Charanga Music Scheme, which is enhanced with bespoke instrument planning by our Music Lead.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014).

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Aims

Our Music program aims to provide our children the opportunity to learn to play a variety of interesting instruments; celebrate individual performance and composition; as well as inspire and culturally unite them with a generous range of genres of excellent music throughout history. Sequencing and progression is catered to the ages of our pupils. We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, and learning about the history of music.

Key Skills

- To learn to play a range of tuned and untuned instruments musically.
- To appraise a wide range of excellent music across a range of genres and time periods.
- To develop the use of their singing voices for performance and enjoyment.
- To experiment with musical instruments to create and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Charanga's Original Scheme meets all the statutory curricular requirements of the National Curriculum for England. It is recognised by Ofsted and is multi-award-winning.

Content and Sequencing

- We use the Charanga program to support our curriculum from Reception to Year 6.
- Shakers and percussion are introduced in Reception; glockenspiels and djembes are added in KS1; ukuleles and digital music composition programs are introduced in KS2.
- Rhyming and chants are used to enhance literacy skills in EYFS and KS1; Simple, repetitive songs are used in KS1; lengthy songs with multiple verses are learned in KS2.

Progress

- Instruments will be played half termly to develop skills.
- Ukuleles will be introduced in LKS2 and played over 2 half terms on alternate years. In UKS2 the children will move on to Stage 2 of the Charanga Ukulele Course.
- Children will be challenged to read and understand increasing amounts of musical notation as they progress through Primary.

Retrieval Practice

- The inter-related dimensions of music are revisited and developed regularly each half term throughout KS1 and KS2.
- Instruments such as djembes and glockenspiels are used for a half term each year with increasing skill challenges.

Links with other curriculum areas



- Maths: considering how bars are divided into fractions using musical notations.
- History: investigating how music represents significant events or periods of time.
- RE: singing is a recurring instrument of learning and praise in Collective Worship and RE classes.

Support



- Students that have taken a keen interest in a particular instrument (or students that may benefit from additional time to practice) may be offered to borrow an instrument over a half term as approved by the Music Lead and Head of School.
- Budding musicians will be provided with opportunities to perform during Collective Worship and at school events to showcase their talents!

Spirituality



Through exposure to a wealth of genres, cultural representation and periods in history, children can experience music in ways they never have before! We value our personal appraisals of all music and we welcome sharing of interests!

Implementation

We offer approximately 1 hour weekly sessions each half term to cover 6 units of lessons each academic year. However, blocking of the units remains at the class teacher's planning discretion to ensure enriched curriculum coverage and experiences throughout the year. At Swallowtail, we offer the following instrumental instruction:

EYFS: Shakers and percussion

KS1: Percussion, Djembes, Glockenspiels

KS2: Djembes, Glockenspiels, Ukuleles and Digital Composition through Garage Band

Lesson Delivery

Our lessons follow a consistent structure in KS1 and KS2:

*We begin by learning about, listening to and appraising high-quality music from a wide spectrum of cultures, genres and generations.

*We then move onto our instrumental and theoretical instruction, where the pupils are taught to play untuned and tuned instruments. Where possible, lessons are delivered by our specialist Music Teacher. When this is not possible, video tutorials from our Music Lead or Charanga are available to support the classroom teacher. Children have ample time to learn new skills, practice, improvise and explore their instruments.

*Our lessons end with an opportunity to perform, for any pupils wishing to do so, as well as with inspiration by watching videos of musicians playing the corresponding instrument for our current unit of work.

Planning

Our KS1 and KS2 long term and short term Music plans have been developed, delivered and enhanced over the last 5 years by our Music Lead. Instrument choice has been considered with age, dexterity and progression in mind. Lessons are catered to our pupils by our Music Lead, featuring instrumental instruction from Charanga and or the Lead to ensure they receive high-quality instruction.

SEND and Individual Adaptations

Woven through our instrumental units is the understanding that playing an instrument is a learned skill. Pupils are reminded that, as in every area of learning, we learn at our own pace and that learning to play an instrument is about progression, not perfection.

When we watch recordings of live performances, we see the human element of music in its beautifully imperfect state. We witness the human spirit of perseverance and aim to embody this example through our own perfectly imperfect learning journey.

Pupils are encouraged to try their best- and that may be focusing on one or two notes at a time; pausing during a song and preparing themselves to rejoin where they feel most confident, dipping in and out of a piece of music that is particularly fast-paced.

Sound breaks are provided, by design, throughout each lesson; outdoor space is used to carry the sound when weather permits. Children may wear noise reducing headphones to support sensory needs. Equipment such as instrument straps will be provided to support physical needs whenever necessary.

Assessment

Learning will be assessed on a lesson by lesson basis and with consideration for the progression of skills and individual abilities of pupils. Additionally, photographs and recordings of class, group, duet or solo performances may be taken with the permission of the individuals as in accordance to our photography permissions given by parents at the start of each academic year. It is a value in our Music program that children will be encouraged to be brave and showcase their skills when and if they feel ready. There will not be pressure to perform as that can create performance anxiety in children and we value positive musical learning experiences and individual voice.

Resources

In 2020, we rejuvenated our music resources, which continue to look brand-new through thoughtful storage and by teaching the pupils how to look after their instruments as a part of the introductory lesson for each instrument unit. At Swallowtail, we have:

Untuned Instruments	Tuned Instruments
*Egg shakers *Castanets *Class-sized percussion sets suitable for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 *rain sticks *tambourines, tambours and headless tambours *djembes	*diatonic coloured hand bells *glockenspiels *ocarinas *ukuleles *recorders *Ipads that feature Garage Band for digital composition

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music Opportunities

In recent years, pupils in our Federation have enjoyed participating in externally sourced recorder lessons as well as taking part

in The Big Sing, the Sing to Dippy the Dinosaur event at the Norwich Cathedral, performing carols at local homes for the elderly and holding a carol concert at one of our local churches.

This year, children KS2 at Catfield have been invited to join our choir and participate in the Young Voices concert at the O2 in London in February 2026!

Part C: Musical Experiences

Throughout their years with us at Swallowtail, in addition to our Music curriculum, the children have a range of musical experiences to enjoy:

- *Collective Worship songs
- *Family Worships provide an opportunity to perform songs or pieces of music learned in or outside of lessons
- *Harvest, Nativity, Carol Concert, Easter, Mother's & Father's Day performances
- *Swallowtail Arts Festival in the Summer Term
- *visiting live performances such as pantomimes
- *participating in choir and attending the Young Voices concert
- *school discos