Music at Mulberry

"Where words fail, music speaks." – Hans Christian Anderson

Music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Mulberry Primary School, it is our intent that we make music an enjoyable learning experience by providing a high quality music education which engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talents as musicians. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences in order to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.
As pupils progress, they engage critically with music – They are provided with opportunities to compose, to listen and appreciate a wide range of music and develop their musical vocabulary in order to speak about the subject in the correct form.

During Foundation Stage at Mulberry

-Aspects of Musical Learning and Development
-Hearing and Listening
-Vocalising and Singing
-Moving and Dancing
-Exploring and Playing

Music for EYFS students has a primary focus on singing and movement, developing the student's listening abilities, physical co-ordination, inner/outer ears, motor-neuron skills, memory, aural awareness, and singing skills. Each student will lead the class in singing, and all will learn to be led by their peers. Songs are linked to class topics when appropriate.
Children have access to a range of instruments in both structured and no structures times so that they can explore sounds and rhythms.

During Key Stage 1 at Mulberry

Pupils are taught to:
-use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
-play tuned and untuned instruments musically.
-listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
-experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

During Key Stage 2 at Mulberry

Pupils are taught to sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They continue to develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils are taught to:
-play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing. accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
-improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music.
-listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
-use and understand staff and other musical notations.
-appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
-develop an understanding of the history of music.

Planning

- The school's curriculum maps shows the units to be covered each term
- There is a medium term plan for each unit of work
- Plans are annotated and adapted to show how less able and those new to English will access the content.
- More able children are planned for so that they can deepen knowledge and skills.

Marking and feedback

Because children display ability in music in as many ways as there are ways to be involved in music, the assessment follows a variety of different methods:

- Oral feedback:

The teacher will informally assess throughout any creation or rehearsal process giving oral feedback and instant methods of ways to improve.
Pupils are also assessed individually and when performing as part of an ensemble – Playing or singing is evidence of achievement.

- Students are encouraged to peer and self-assess:

The evidence is in the critical listening of each student and the audience.

Teaching

- Teaching is delivered by specialised music teachers.
- Workshops are also provided to each year group throughout the year.

During music lessons, 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 by learning about: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Assessment

Formative:

- AFL is used within each lesson to establish next steps for pupils.
- Performance opportunities are used as a way for children to present their work and for teachers to assess.

EYFS:

- Teachers and key workers make observations regarding the pupils' development in this subject.

Resourcing and display

Display:

- Display is kept up to date and relevant to themes, displaying key vocabulary and concepts that are being taught in Music.
- A range of famous composers to be displayed.

Resources:

- Resources are stored in the music room on the top floor.
- A range of instruments are available to the children.

Monitoring

Monitoring is undertaken by subject leader and SLT during the school year. This will include

- learning walks during Music lessons
- discussions with pupils about what they have learnt

Music Development Plan Summary

The Mulberry Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026–2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sabwe Serikenya
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Anita Gray
Name of local music hub	Haringey Music Service Inderwick Road London N8 9JU
Name of other music education organisation(s)	None currently

Introduction

This summary outlines how The Mulberry delivers high-quality music education for all pupils through curriculum music, co-curricular opportunities and musical experiences. Our aim is to ensure every child develops confidence, creativity and enjoyment through music while providing opportunities to perform, listen, compose and appreciate music from a wide range of cultures and traditions.

Part A: Curriculum Music

At The Mulberry, music is taught using the Charanga Musical School Scheme, which provides a progressive, knowledge-rich curriculum that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum. Lessons are delivered by a specialist music teacher one day each week, working alongside class teachers to ensure continuity and high-quality provision across the school.

Pupils receive regular curriculum music lessons throughout the academic year. The curriculum develops children's skills in:

- Singing
- Listening and appraising music
- Playing tuned and untuned percussion instruments
- Improvising and composing
- Reading and understanding musical notation
- Performing with confidence

The Charanga curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils build musical knowledge and skills year on year. It is inclusive and adapted where necessary to meet the needs of pupils with SEND, ensuring that every child can participate successfully.

Music lessons include opportunities for:

- Whole-class singing
- Group instrumental work
- Composition using voices and instruments
- Listening to a wide range of musical genres
- Performance to peers

The school curriculum for music can be found on the school website.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

The Mulberry is committed to expanding musical opportunities beyond the classroom.

Current opportunities include:

- Singing as part of assemblies and school celebrations
- Musical performances during seasonal events and celebrations
- Performance opportunities linked to school productions and special events

Where possible, the school works with the local Music Hub to promote additional instrumental tuition and wider musical opportunities available within the local community.

The school aims to expand opportunities by:

- Establishing a school choir
- Developing instrumental clubs
- Providing opportunities for pupils to perform together as an ensemble
- Exploring opportunities for small-group instrumental tuition through Music Hub partnerships

Any future instrumental tuition will be offered equitably, with financial support considered where appropriate for disadvantaged pupils.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Music plays an important role in school life at The Mulberry.

Throughout the year pupils participate in:

- Weekly singing during assemblies
- Christmas performances and celebrations
- End of year productions
- Class assemblies featuring music
- Celebration events involving singing and performance

Where possible, pupils also experience live music through:

- Visiting musicians
- Workshops delivered by specialist performers
- Attendance at local concerts and performances
- Music Hub events

Every pupil has opportunities to perform during the school year, either as part of a class, year group or whole-school event.

Many of these opportunities are provided free of charge, ensuring all pupils can participate.

In the Future

During the next two years The Mulberry aims to further develop music provision by:

- Increasing opportunities for live musical performances.
- Developing a school choir that performs regularly.
- Establishing instrumental ensembles as pupil participation grows.
- Strengthening partnerships with the local Music Hub.
- Introducing wider opportunities for instrumental tuition.
- Providing additional CPD for staff to support musical learning across the curriculum.
- Continuing to embed the Charanga Music Scheme to ensure progression in musical knowledge and skills.
- Increasing opportunities for pupils to compose, record and perform using music technology.

These developments will help ensure pupils receive a broad, balanced and ambitious music education in line with the National Plan for Music Education.

Further Information

The Mulberry values music as an essential part of every child's education. We believe music promotes creativity, confidence, teamwork and emotional wellbeing while enriching pupils' cultural understanding.

For more information about our music curriculum, please visit the school's curriculum page or contact the school office.

Information about wider musical opportunities is available through our local Music Hub.