Music development plan summary: Hazel Oak School 2026-2027

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	Dara Coates
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kirstie McElroy-Stringer
Name of local music hub	Heart of England Music Hub & Solihull Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Birmingham Royal Ballet

This is a summary of how Hazel Oak 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.

At Hazel Oak School, music develops communication, interaction, confidence, creativity, emotional wellbeing and cultural understanding. Music is taught across EYFS to Post-16 through adaptive teaching, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), multi-sensory approaches and personalised pathways. Lessons are timetabled weekly for EYFS to KS4. Pupils engage in singing, listening, composing, performing and musical exploration. Accessible instruments, AAC, sensory approaches and music technology help ensure all pupils can participate successfully. Music contributes to EHCP outcomes, particularly communication, interaction, emotional development, independence and preparation for adulthood.

Hazel Oak School uses Charanga Musical School as the foundation for its music curriculum because it provides a comprehensive, flexible and inclusive approach to teaching music that can be adapted to meet the diverse needs of our pupils.

Charanga offers a structured programme of music education that meets the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music**,** whilst providing teachers with access to over 25,000 resources, songs, creative tools and teaching materials. The platform supports the progressive development of key musical skills, including listening, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition and performance.

The flexibility of Charanga allows Hazel Oak to adapt learning to suit the needs of pupils across EYFS to Post-16. Teachers can follow established schemes of work or create bespoke pathways that reflect the interests, strengths and learning needs of our pupils. This aligns closely with Hazel Oak's commitment to personalised learning and UDL.

Charanga also supports our inclusive approach to music education by providing differentiated activities and teaching guidance, enabling all pupils to access meaningful musical experiences regardless of their starting point. The digital tools within the platform encourage creativity and self-expression while supporting engagement, communication and confidence.

Through Charanga, pupils have opportunities to explore a wide range of musical genres, artists and performance styles, including resources from organisations such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The platform also integrates effectively with our partnerships with the Heart of England Music Hub and Solihull Music Service**,** enhancing the breadth and quality of our music provision.

By using Charanga, Hazel Oak ensures that music lessons are engaging, progressive, accessible and ambitious, enabling every pupil to develop their musical understanding whilst promoting creativity, wellbeing, communication and enjoyment of music.

Accessible Music Technology and Music Hub Partnership

As part of our music curriculum, Hazel Oak School works in partnership with the Heart of England Music Hub and Solihull Music Service to deliver music lessons using specialist accessible music technology.

Through this partnership, three members of staff have received training in the use of this equipment, enabling specialist approaches to be embedded within the school's music provision. The equipment remains on site throughout the academic year, allowing pupils to access musical activities beyond their timetabled music lessons.

This provides additional opportunities for pupils to engage in music during:

- Curriculum lessons
- Lunchtime activities
- Enrichment sessions

- After-school provision
- Targeted intervention and communication activities
- Christmas and Summer performances
- Assemblies

The use of accessible music technology ensures that pupils with a wide range of physical, sensory, communication and learning needs can actively participate in music-making, composition and performance. By maintaining the equipment on site and developing staff expertise, Hazel Oak is able to extend access to high-quality musical experiences across the school week and support pupils to develop confidence, creativity, communication and self-expression through music.

This partnership reflects our commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and ensures that all pupils can access meaningful and engaging musical opportunities regardless of need. It also supports our school values of Respect, Creativity, Growth, Wellbeing and Community**,** helping pupils to experience success and enjoyment through music.

In Key Stage 4 pupils have the opportunity to work towards AQA and Trinity Music Accreditations with support from the Heart of England Music Hub and Solihull Music Service.

As children continue with individual lessons they can work towards music exams as appropriate.

Part B: Co-curricular music

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.

Pupils have opportunities to engage in music beyond timetabled lessons through singing groups including Makaton Choir, enrichment activities, performance opportunities, music technology, creative arts activities and special events. Activities are adapted to enable participation for all pupils regardless of need or physical ability.

This year, Hazel Oak School has begun offering individual instrumental music tuition through the Heart of England Music Hub and Solihull Music Service. Pupils can access lessons in ukulele, keyboard and guitar**,** with instrument loans available to support participation.

Whilst this provision is funded directly by parents and carers, lessons take place during the school day and on the school site to maximise accessibility for our pupils. As many Hazel Oak pupils travel significant distances to school and have a range of special

educational needs and disabilities, accessing tuition within a familiar, calm and supportive environment removes barriers that might otherwise prevent participation.

Where pupils are eligible, the school may contribute towards the cost of lessons through Pupil Premium funding**,** helping to ensure that financial circumstances do not become a barrier to accessing music education.

This partnership enables pupils to develop individual musical skills, build confidence and independence, and make progress in music beyond the core curriculum. It also provides opportunities for pupils to learn an instrument in a way that is tailored to their needs and supports their wellbeing, creativity and personal development.

This provision demonstrates Hazel Oak School's commitment to providing inclusive musical opportunities and supports the values of Respect, Creativity, Growth, Wellbeing and Community, ensuring that all pupils can develop their musical interests and talents.

Many of our children access the Heart of England Music Hub Saturday music groups where they perform at local events and visit national venues to perform throughout the year.

Hazel Oak has a hall with a removable stage and professional lightning used for events and a large studio space for practice with a separate room that can be set up as recording studio to support music production, podcasts and recording or small tutorial space for instrumental lessons.

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.

Music is embedded throughout school life through assemblies, celebrations, performances, visiting artists and educational visits. During the Autumn Term, Sixth Form pupils participate in a Birmingham Royal Ballet outreach programme delivered in school. Professional dancers work with pupils across a series of sessions exploring rhythm, tempo, musical expression, movement and performance. These experiences support cultural capital, confidence, communication and appreciation of the performing arts.

Pupils will experience attending performances at The Core Theatre in Solihull and local school performances including Alderbrook Secondary School, who will be part of our new Academy Trust from Spring 2027.

In the future

Hazel Oak School is ambitious for the creative arts and is committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences, opportunities to perform, and opportunities to experience live music and performances.

We will continue to expand our own school performances and celebrations of musical talent, including events such as Hazel Oak's Got Talent**,** Pride Week and Leavers Assemblies, which provide pupils with opportunities to develop confidence, self-expression and performance skills in a supportive and inclusive environment.

We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with music providers, arts organisations and community groups, whilst further developing the use of accessible music technology to ensure that all pupils can engage in music-making regardless of their individual needs.

As part of our partnership with Solihull Music Service, Hazel Oak pupils will participate in the Invictus Games at the NEC in Summer 2027, providing opportunities for collaborative performance, cultural enrichment and community engagement. Through this experience, pupils will have the opportunity to perform alongside pupils from other schools, celebrate their achievements and experience being part of a large-scale musical event.

Looking ahead, we also hope to develop further partnerships with other Solihull special schools and schools within our emerging academy trust**.** These partnerships will enable pupils and staff to share musical expertise, participate in joint performances and access a wider range of musical experiences, enriching opportunities for all learners.

Through these developments, Hazel Oak aims to ensure that every pupil can experience the enjoyment, achievement and sense of belonging that music can bring, whilst continuing to live our values.

Links to Hazel Oak Values

Music supports **Respect** through collaborative performance,

Creativity through composition and expression,

Growth through skill development,

Wellbeing through emotional regulation and enjoyment,

Community through shared musical experiences and performances.