

Music Development Plan Summary: Theale Church of England Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Charlotte Rowden
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Catherine Morley
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Culture Mix Arts

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.

At Theale CE Primary School during their time with us children will develop deep, accurate, wide ranging subject knowledge, skills and understanding in music. They will achieve the highest standards, have rich opportunities that will develop a life-long love of music making. Children will learn the value of practice and the need for self-discipline in the study of the subject, as well as creative skills. Their music lessons and other musical experiences will help to develop a sense of group identity, collaborative skills, aesthetic sensitivity and fulfilment, develop cultural capital and instil ambition, whilst building resilience.

All children including those with SEND and who are entitled to PP have varied opportunities to 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. All children learn to sing and to use their voices, have the opportunity to learn several musical instruments, create and compose music on their own and with others, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence. All children learn so they understand and have opportunities to 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.

Link to curriculum overview, progression of skills document, MTPs and Kos:
<https://www.thealeprimary.co.uk/curriculum/the-curriculum/music>

Our music curriculum design and implementation:

- is clearly articulated and understood by all
- is underpinned by a consistent pedagogical approach to achieve our goals,
- is coherently sequenced,
- is carefully planned to ensure the children will grow to be knowledge rich,
- is supported by the highest quality personalised CPD
- ensures children achieve the highest musical skills and knowledge
- ensures children make outstanding progress from their starting points
- ensures children develop a deep understanding and exceptional skill level

Our curriculum is **bespoke** for our children. Written and designed by subject specialists, content is chosen by experts in their field who have higher level qualifications, passion and deep subject knowledge. They understand the **substantive and disciplinary knowledge** required to develop expertise and its progression and have ambitious aspirations for all the children. This ensures the curriculum is challenging for all students. **Careful adaptation** to provide support and scaffolding as well as challenge means our most vulnerable learners experience a high level of success.

Our subject specialist leaders retain an overview of the whole programme of study overtime, the curriculum is progressive, providing a coherent pathway. We plan for music as a discrete subject whilst ensuring every opportunity is taken to make meaningful links between subjects. The key knowledge and technical subject vocabulary is captured in knowledge organisers which are shared with everyone. Music lessons at Theale Primary are only taught by highly qualified specialist teachers with exceptional levels of expertise and training.

Lessons are structured as follows:

FS2/Y1:

- Weekly 35-minute music lessons with a specialist teacher
- 40 minutes of weekly singing lesson
- Daily singing during other curriculum lessons

Year 2/3:

- Weekly 35-minute music lessons with a specialist teacher
- Year 2: Weekly 60-minute violin lessons with a specialist teacher
- Year 3: Weekly 60-minute guitar lessons with a specialist teacher
- 45 minutes of choir every other week which all children participate in as part of their timetable.

Year 4/5:

- Weekly 40-minute music lessons with a specialist teacher
- Weekly 40-minute steel panning lessons with a specialist teacher from CultureMix Arts
- Either 45 minutes or 90 minutes of choir every other week which all children participate in as part of their timetable

Year 6:

- Weekly 35-minute music lessons with a specialist teacher
- Either 45 minutes or 90 minutes of choir every other week which all children participate in as part of their timetable

Children can progress to take associated board music examinations on an instrument and part of our plans include ensuring children are also given the opportunity to take theory of music examinations. Our school choirs receive feedback and recognition from music festivals they attend.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about our 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.

Further instrumental music tuition, choirs and ensembles.

We work hard to ensure musical opportunities are open to all children so that the subject does not become elitist in our school and all opportunities are free of charge to children. However, we have selected a small number of children who show particular promise to have some extra lessons during the school day. These are as follows:

- A gifted and talented brass group, tuition is paid for by the school and instruments are owned by Theale Primary School or loaned by Pangbourne College free of charge.
- A gifted and talented violin group following on from a year of free tuition for every child in year 2. Instruments are owned by Theale Primary School but often given to the children when they leave us to enable them to continue.
- After school our Steel Panning Orchestra is open to children in years 5/6 in partnership with CultureMix Arts following on from two years free tuition for every child in years 4 and 5 (instruments owned by Theale Primary School)
- Rock Band- a small number of interested children attend a before school rock band rehearsal/lesson.
- All pupils participate in choirs as part of their timetabled musical opportunities (see above)
- Singing assembly every other week, singing as part of daily worship
- Music is an integral part of every single day at school. The music listening programme is the morning routine in every class and ensures children hear and discuss music from every genre from medieval music through to contemporary compositions from world music to electronically sequenced music, from jazz to opera and everything in between.
- Further music, as part of the theme for the week is also played at lunchtime every day.

- Music is also played to children during lessons across the whole curriculum.

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 Events and Musical Performances.

Performance opportunities:

We believe that the opportunity to perform is the culmination and application of all specialist music the teaching the children receive. We expect the highest standards. We aim that there is an edge of reality in our curriculum. An example of this is the annual school production for all children in KS2 including those in our Autism Resource. Every week all children are taught drama, music and dance by specialists in their field who have experience and an understanding of working within the professional performing arts industry, the **role model** they are able to provide is **exceptional**. This means the standards of achievement the children reach are significantly above average. A **rigorously authentic** audition process, where children compete for leading roles and a short but intense rehearsal schedule culminates in a production in a professional theatre with a professional orchestra. Stage management, sound and light technicians and other theatre staff support out staff to make the experience a **specialised and challenging** one for our children. We are innovative, constantly seeking new and adventurous opportunities. For example, a previous recent production of Peter Pan, complete with children learning to fly at a training centre prior to the performances, made our audience (over 800 attendees) literally gasp with amazement as the children swooped in twenty feet above the stage. Every child is supported to take part, without exception, whatever their challenges may be. We delight in seeing their courage, **ability to take risks**, as well as their performing arts skills.

Trips to motivate and inspire the children and show them the standards needed for professional work in this field have included; The Lion King, The Royal Ballet, Matilda, The Tempest. (These are just a few examples of trips for all children).

Other performance opportunities include:

Services: Harvest, Nativity/Christmas and Easter, Leavers

- As mentioned -All pupils in Years 3-6 participate in a performance of a musical at The Hexagon in Reading in the summer term
- Year 3 String group performance in the summer term (whole-class and G&T group)
- termly performance platform opportunity for pupils in Years 2-6
- Annual steel pan festival – an opportunity for steel pan orchestras from across the county and beyond to showcase their work as well as taking part in a massed event – in partnership with Culture Mix Arts.
- Outreach work from local independent schools include both singing and instrumental days we always take full advantage of these as they arise.
- Class and group performances in assemblies

- Personalised invitations to bring children to perform as a result of the school's reputation

In the future

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

The opportunities for our children are forever evolving. We will continue to invest in music opportunities maintaining our levels of specialist teaching and opportunities.

We are looking to increase the numbers of children taking music examinations through ABRSM.

We would also like to see/host a local music festival which many schools in the area could take part in celebrating children's achievements and giving them a performance opportunity.

We would like to take part in a music celebration as part of our church school status to teach children about religious inspired music and have started working with Christchurch Cathedral to plan this event.

As more children are successful in their instrumental playing I would like us to develop our instrument playing in school and this would culminate in a school band/orchestra.

This year we would like to add the Keyboard to our instrumental tuition opportunities.

I would like to see more cross discipline events such as the school Dance Company dancing to music provided by the school choir.

The school rock band is just beginning and I would like to see this develop further.

I would like to form a partnership with the Royal College of Music Junior Conservatoire to increase the CPD opportunities for our staff.

Further information

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.