



Russell Street School

Music Development Plan



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Kim French
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Dawn Robinson
Name of local music hub	Milton Keynes
Name of other music education organisation(s)	MK Music Hub Charanga Music

National Music Plan (the power of music to change lives) Vision:

Our vision is to enable all children and young people to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, and have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents, including professionally. This means all children and young people:

- experience a broad musical culture in schools and education settings, accessing highquality curricular and co-curricular music, and progressing into appropriate qualifications*
- access the expertise, instruments, technology and facilities they need to learn, create and share their music*
- engage with a range of enrichment opportunities to play and sing, to perform, create and experience live music, and have their music heard*
- have opportunities to progress their musical interests and talents, and routes into a variety of music careers*
- are supported by a skilled and dynamic workforce*

At Russell Street School music is a way for children to express their emotions enjoyably and creatively. It plays an important role in personal development and we aim to provide opportunities for all children to create, play, perform, listen, analyse and enjoy music across a wide range of periods, genres and styles. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and aim to provide opportunities for children to use their musical skills, knowledge and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

Below 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.

Timetabling – There are regular timetabled curriculum music lessons in all years which totals 1 hour per week for all children (this can include singing assemblies etc). A room in school is dedicated to music teaching. Music is taught by our specialist music teacher in Year 2.

Curriculum Design – There is a whole school curriculum in place which clearly maps progress and skills across the school. Additional aspects are embedded into the planning such as whole class instrumental music, school performances and special musical events.

We use the Charanga Musical Scheme across the school. This provides teachers with week-by-week lesson support. It is ideal for our specialist and non-specialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, and engaging and purposeful whiteboard resources to support every lesson. This Scheme meets all the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Model Music Plan.

Charanga provides wide exposure to musical styles and genres from different times and places and promotes the exploration of the language of music through active listening, performing and composing activities. Each unit follows a sequence of learning: listen and appraise, interrelated dimensions of music, singing, playing instruments, improvisation, composition, perform and share. This approach ensures the children get a rich learning experience covering all aspects of music. There is a clear progression of skills and knowledge to accompany each unit that sets out exactly how the children progress throughout the year as well as year on year.

Assessment - Progress is clearly mapped against our skills and knowledge overviews and our Music Lead works closely with class teachers to monitor and support this process. There are opportunities for pupils to self and peer assess their work.

Quality of teaching - Music teaching is consistently good quality throughout school and is monitored and supported well over the year.

EYFS music - Singing is an integral and essential part of EYFS life. Songs and activities are appropriate to developing voices and carefully chosen to support early progress. By the end of EYFS our children are able to sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and move in time with music.

Whole class instrumental provision - Whole class learning of the recorder in Year 2 is fully integrated into the music curriculum and is deliberately placed for pupil progression.

Singing - Singing is the golden thread of music throughout school. We have a clear commitment to the quality teaching of singing and opportunities for progression for all children from the start of their school education. Regular singing assemblies are led by our specialist and singing is an important and integral part of curriculum lessons. We use singing to enhance each unit of work in school, for example when Year 2 learn about the Victorians, they learn songs from Oliver Twist and when Year 1 learn about growing in science, they learn songs from a musical called The Garden.

Inclusion - All staff (including visiting staff) are fully aware of any relevant additional needs in their classes. Children are sensitively guided to appropriate activities for their specific needs.

Pupils have opportunities to listen to and engage with music from a wide variety of different cultures, traditions and eras.

Wider involvement/ Hub participation - The school has strong partnerships with Milton Keynes Music Hub.

CPD – All school staff are able to access music CPD through Charanga and our Music Lead regularly meets with other Music Leads across MK. [CPD & Training - Charanga](#)

Live music - All children have opportunity to experience live music over the course of the school year.

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.

Instrumental lessons - Year 2 children can learn play brass or string instruments. The instruments are selected for progression and quality of delivery is consistently good.

Children are given a full year to learn these instruments and as such develop basic skills and knowledge securely in that time. There are opportunities during the year for the children to perform to others. Children have the opportunity to carry on learning the instrument (or a related instrument) at the end of the year when they move to junior school. A child learning any instrument in school has the chance to play that instrument in an ensemble organised by our music hub. There are regular performing opportunities with the group. Children who take part in the brass and string lessons above, take part in a yearly massed concert. We promote participation at the MK Music Hub Saturday Music Centre.

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.

Children sing in a weekly singing assembly. Reception children perform an annual Christmas Nativity. During this performance children sing and perform to a live audience of the school and their families.

Children in Year N and 1 perform an annual concert to the school and their families based around a unit of learning. Children in Year 2 perform Victorian concert to the whole school and their families as live audiences. This concert involves a full stage production with costumes, stage and lighting. Children sing in rounds and partner songs as well as learn an extensive script.

We make the most of opportunities from Milton Keynes Music Hub and take our children to perform in the MK Infant Music Festival yearly.

Year 2 children perform music pieces they have learnt on their brass and string instruments to the school and families as well as perform in a massed concert at a local secondary school to a live audience.

Theatre groups visit school twice yearly to perform (this always involves singing).

Music is used across the school to enhance the sensory experiences of children, eg Holst The Planets plays in our Space Centre and different styles of music are played in our Nurture Room.

In the future

We pledge the following:

An 'RSS Quality Arts Offer' for all children.

All children will (yearly)

Watch live music

Take part in a year group performance (performances are planned to be progressive year on year)

Have their art/DT work shown in a gallery

See live theatre (in school)

Take part in weekly singing assemblies

Be given the opportunities to progress their talents through weekly music, art and DT lessons/opportunities

Be signposted to external arts opportunities (through weekly Sways).

All children will (by the end of Year 2)

Learn to play a musical instrument (the recorder – this is taught for a whole academic year)

Visit an art gallery

See live theatre (out of school)

Be offered the opportunity to take part in MK Elfin string or brass lessons and take part in a massed concert (through the Music Centre)

Take part in the MK Infant Music festival (singing with a large group of infant schools).

Further information

[Home - Milton Keynes Music Education Hub \(miltonkeynesmusichub.co.uk\)](http://miltonkeynesmusichub.co.uk)

[A world-leading, configurable music teaching and learning platform - Charanga](#)

[Model Music Curriculum \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

[The power of music to change lives: a national plan for music education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)