

Music development plan summary: St Michael's Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Summer 2025
Name of the school music lead	Eleana Norman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Aimee Crofts
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Every week, each pupil participates in an hour of music lesson for Years 1 to 6, and for an hour for Reception pupils.

Through our EYFS Expressive Arts Programme following the Development matter programme children learn to:

- discover their voices through story and play
- create new, personal songs to well-known tunes
- explore and play using basic percussion instruments

Children learn both musical skills and knowledge to meet the Early Learning Goals.

The Kapow Music scheme has been adopted for KS1/2 and enables pupils to meet the end of key stage attainment targets outlined in the National curriculum and the aims of the scheme align with those in the National Curriculum. We follow the spiral curriculum

model where previous skills and knowledge are returned to and built upon. The Kapow music scheme takes a holistic approach to music, in which the individual strands below are woven together to create engaging and enriching experiences:

- listening and evaluating
- creating sound
- notation
- improvising and composing
- performing - singing and playing

Throughout these 5 strands there are opportunities to recognise and apply the inter-related dimensions of music.

Each 5 lesson unit combines these strands with a cross-curricular topic designed to capture and encourage them to explore music enthusiastically. Over the course of the scheme children will be taught how to:

- sing fluently and expressively
- play tuned and untuned instruments accurately and with control
- recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music – pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, structure, texture and dynamics – and use these expressively in their own improvisations and compositions

In each lesson, pupils will actively participate in musical activities drawn from a range of styles and tradition, developing their musical skills and understanding of how music works. Lessons are ‘hands-on’ and incorporate movement elements, as well as making cross curricular links with other areas of learning.

In line with the DfE Model Music Curriculum, we are intending to introduce whole-class instrumental teaching for Year 5 in Spring 2026 through our local music hub.

Please access this link to view both the music curriculum at St Michael’s and how we are increasing access for disabled pupils and supporting pupils with special educational needs (SEND). <https://www.stmichaels.reading.sch.uk/music/>

Berkshire Music Hub offers the schools support and St Michael’s engages with both the provision and events available.

Part B: Extra-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.

Our school choir is offered to Year 3 to 6 and is a popular, free, after-school activity. The choir practice every week and perform publicly, including a concert at our local Hexagon theatre.

Rock Steady music tuition is offered to KS1 and KS2 pupils, payable to parents. Rocksteady Music, offers in-school band lessons for primary school children. These lessons are designed to be inclusive, fun, and help children develop confidence and social skills through music. They learn to play instruments like guitar, keyboard, drums, and vocals. Through the lessons, children develop musical skills and work towards a qualification accredited by Trinity College London.

Children in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to participate in a free, Ukulele club provided by the Deputy Headteacher. Through the weekly session, children are able to learn the instrument through small group tuition.

As part of our international day, we welcomed a visitor to lead drumming workshops with our Year 2 pupils. This engaging, hands-on drumming experience allowed students the opportunity to learn about musical traditions and collaborative music-making.

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.

Each year group participates in a singing performance to a large audience, through the following productions: Reception Play; KS1 play; Year 3 to 5 Carol Concert; Year 6 Play. Children in other year groups are invited to view the school performances.

Every year, our choir attends rehearsals organised by the Berkshire trust to perform alongside other schools to form a huge children's choir! The impressive choir performs to a larger audience of parents and members of the local community.

The Rock Steady groups perform in a 'rock' concert to their peers and parents, three times per year. They confidently perform the songs they have learnt, as part of a group.

Pupils attend local performances such as a show provided by KS3 and KS4 pupils at the local secondary school.

Pupils participate in singing opportunities in assemblies such as the annual Harvest assembly.

In the future

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

- Introduce a new instrument to Year 5 for a Term of sessions, provided by the music hub (Spring 2026)
- Review Pupil premium children's uptake and the use of subsidising.

- Provide more opportunities for singing in assembly
- Find more opportunities to view concerts and performances
- Introduce instruments into the productions, played by the children

Further information (optional)

Berkshire Music Hub <https://www.berksmusictrust.org.uk/>