

Music development plan summary: Boughton Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	May 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Mary James
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Mary James
Name of local music hub	Northamptonshire and Rutland
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NMPAT

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.

Our website includes information about our curriculum intent, implementation and impact, alongside our scheme of work for Music, all of which can be found via this [link](#).

We follow the Kapow Condensed Curriculum for Music, which is informed by the National Curriculum statutory and non-statutory requirements, and the Model Music Curriculum. This scheme of work ensures that knowledge and skills are built upon cohesively, progressively and sequentially. Teachers choose whether to teach the units within weekly lessons or in blocks of time, dependent on the constraints of their class timetables.

Musical skills are developed through singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, composing and responding to music.

A range of genres of music from across the globe and generations is used as a medium for teaching, helping children to explore and appreciate British and other cultures.

The Music curriculum begins in the Early Years, harnessing children's early musical awareness, supporting their imagination and creativity. Throughout the school, children are encouraged to perform, rehearse, sing and explore their own musicality.

We have weekly singing assemblies, which allow children to hone their performance skills, celebrate diversity by learning new songs from different cultures and eras, as well as learning new key vocabulary.

Music and songs are also used across the curriculum, for example, when learning the alphabet, times tables or the names of the continents. The Kapow units also link with other subjects, for example, in Year 6, pupils learn about the differences between songs from the world wars, which links to their History lessons.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities are included within music lessons, or supported to access music. For some pupils, the sensory nature of music lessons can be overwhelming (noise), so reasonable adjustments are made to allow them to listen to and make music in other ways e.g. a quieter environment within the school building, or through structured play activities.

In Year 4, children have 10 weeks of First Access tuition as a whole class. We have opted for strings – violins, violas and cellos. We partner with specialist teachers NMPAT, who deliver the lessons. At the end of the block, the children perform to their peers, parents and carers.

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.

We have partnered with iRock, who offer small group tuition to children from Reception to Year 6. The children form bands and work on a popular song, either as vocalists or playing guitar, keyboard or drums. At the end of each 10 week block, they perform to their peers, parents and carers. This gives them an enormous sense of achievement, and allows children to access specialist teaching beyond the classroom.

One-to-one tuition is available for children from Year 3 upwards, from NMPAT teachers. Many instruments are available to learn, including violin, cello, guitar, piano, flute and saxophone. The instruments available will vary year-on-year, according to the numbers of children who wish to participate, as the teachers need a minimum number to allow the lessons to be sustainable. These lessons lead to various awards and grade examinations.

Tuition is paid for by parents, although we review individual sets of circumstances to allow participation for all students. In some cases, instrument loans can be agreed, or other support, but this is on a case-by-case basis.

Our choir is led by the Head Teacher, and works towards performances at key points during the year, including Christmas and Mothering Sunday. The choir performs at school, and within the community, including at Boughton church, the village hall and a local care home. The choir includes pupils from Reception through to Year 6, and everyone is welcome to join. At the last count, there were 84 children enrolled!

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.

Singing in assembly is a regular experience, even including songs during our weekly celebration assemblies for particular awards (reading silver, gold, diamond and platinum songs, and the “Golden Lunchbox”).

Every year we take the whole school to the pantomime at a theatre in Northampton, to experience live theatre including singing. We do charge for this visit, but apply for a grant to subsidise the cost, which makes it affordable for parents.

Our Christmas Nativity always includes the whole school, where every class learns a song for their scene, and the whole school learns at least one song to sing at the end of the show.

Within the iRock assemblies, the children have the opportunity to hear the specialist music teachers perform songs, which always involve audience participation.

During the summer term, we hold a whole school “Summer Celebration”, where every class learns a song and a dance to perform to their families and peers. Recent themes have included Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee, where the children sang songs from each decade of her rule; King Charles III’s coronation, where the theme was “Best of British”, and songs by British artists were performed. In previous years, we chose a musical and each class took a song to learn, for example, Mary Poppins, The Sound of Music.

All of these events are free of charge to parents.

In the future

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

We have successfully applied to be a part of Young Voices 2026 and will be taking a choir of 30 KS2 students to the event in Birmingham, in January 2026.

Further information (optional)

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.

More information about specialist individual music tuition can be found on the [NMPAT](#) website.

More information about specialist small group music tuition can be found on the [iRock](#) website.