

Music development plan summary: Devonshire Road Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	05/09/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	31/07/26
Name of the school music lead	Ashley Luxford / Ally Branagan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tom Abraham
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	KAPOW Primary Rock Steady Front-row Music

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 to be the best they can be and to help parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

At Devonshire Road Primary School we offer high quality Music sessions to all classes led by our experienced Music specialist for an hour a week. During this time, class teachers are encouraged to learn from our specialist teacher to gain confidence and knowledge in Music delivery. Our music curriculum is progressive and consistent with the model music curriculum criteria. While it is based on the Kapow Primary condensed music plan, it has been carefully adapted and refined to suit the needs of our pupils and align with our lesson style. Through this approach, our lessons are designed to captivate students, ignite their interest in music, and ensure all pupils are both challenged and able to achieve. They experience music from a wide range of genres and cultures, fostering curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong appreciation of the subject.

During our hourly Music sessions, a quarter of the lesson is focussed on enriching pupils singing confidence and ability. Children then engage in ensemble singing during our weekly whole school assemblies – our assembly songs feature various genres and

composers and develop singing skills such as singing in unison, parts, rounds and calypsos.

Our Autumn 2 term is dedicated to performances – every year group has the opportunity to perform and participate as an audience member.

EYFS develop their singing and performance skills by taking part in a Christmas song concert for their parents, carers, and Key Stage One pupils.

In Key Stage One, Music lessons in Autumn 2 are dedicated to rehearsing for the annual Nativity performance, which is shared with families and the whole school. During this time, Year 1 pupils perform a range of songs and use a variety of musical instruments, while Year 2 pupils take on additional responsibilities, including delivering spoken lines and performing solo singing parts alongside the Year 1 children.

In Key Stage Two, every class takes part in our *Sing Through Time* concert, with each class representing a different decade of music from the 1940s to the 2010s. Preparation for the performance has strong cross-curricular links with History, as pupils explore key historical events, cultural influences, and musical styles from their assigned decade. The concert itself is performed in chronological order, enabling pupils to develop an understanding of the musical timeline, recognise genre-specific features, and appreciate how music has evolved across the decades.

Our Music curriculum fosters creativity, confidence, and perseverance, while developing pupils' listening, performance, and technical skills through practical music-making and instrumental learning. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, children establish their tuned percussion skills using a one-octave chime bar set, with removable bars that allow irrelevant notes to be eliminated for specific tunes. In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils progress to a one-octave glockenspiel (some colour-coded to support lesson adaptations), further refining their understanding of pitch and notation. By Upper Key Stage 2, pupils advance to a two-octave chromatic glockenspiel, deepening their musicianship and technical control.

In Year 3, all pupils take part in a whole-class instrumental programme during the Summer Term, where our specialist music teacher delivers ukulele lessons that culminate in a performance to celebrate their learning. In Year 5, pupils extend their rhythmic and ensemble skills through an African drumming unit, following the Kapow scheme. Across the early years and beyond, pupils build strong foundations in musicianship and performance technique, preparing them for continued success throughout the Key Stage 1 and 2 curriculum.

We have clear guidance on how to support our SEND pupils; our staff know the children exceptionally well and adapt the teaching accordingly to provide an enriched curriculum for all.

Please refer to our [SEND link](#) for more details on our adaptations plan.

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.

We currently offer a number of opportunities for children to learn how to play musical instruments outside of lesson time. Through Front-row Music, we currently offer ukulele tuition and have done so for a number of years. These are weekly 20 minute sessions and are in small groups of 5 to 6. The lessons are subsidised by the school, increasing accessibility to our low income families – our current Pupil Premium enrolment is 43%. Additionally, a number of our children with SEND undertake ukulele tuition, currently at 33% overall. Our Ukulele students have the opportunity to work towards different milestones at the end of each half term which are supported by a variety of resources and themed around different genres of songs.

Our pupils also have the opportunity to join our school choir, lead weekly by our Specialist Music Teacher. Our choir currently offered to children in Year 2 to Year 6. The choir rehearses weekly during lunchtime throughout Autumn 1 to Spring 1, and after-school from Spring 2 to Summer 2. Members of the choir are able to enhance their singing technique through learning an extensive repertoire and perform in parent assemblies, school concerts, and performances in the local community. Returning again this year, in Summer 2 our choir will participate in the Bolton Schools' Music Festival once more – a wonderful celebration of music with the schools in our community. Additionally, students that attend the choir have the option to collect attendance minutes towards their Children's University achievement.

We also continue to offer Rock Steady where students can join a band lead by experienced band leaders. Each band rehearses weekly on a cycle, ensuring our pupils are not missing the same learning content regularly. Rock Steady also provide performance opportunities, for band members and the whole-school. These performances are very popular and have truly sparked greater interest and love for music at our school.

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.

In addition to the wonderful extra-curricular experiences our Choir, Rock Steady and Ukulele participants regularly access, musical events and opportunities are embedded into our curriculum and school calendar, allowing all of our children to be the best they can be. Throughout the week, our school assemblies engage in whole-school singing, allowing students to access the positive neurological benefits of music, release

endorphins and broaden their knowledge of singing musicianship; singing as an ensemble, singing in parts, singing in harmony (KS2).

Singing is a popular aspect of the KAPOW curriculum, and we pride ourselves on giving assembly performance opportunities to each year group on the completion of their singing units. Our Year 5s learn about Ancient Egypt during autumn term, and work towards singing in parts and playing an accompanying part on a tuned percussion instrument.

Our *Sing Through Time* for KS2 (previously named *Winter Sing-Off*) and Nativity (KS1) are annual highlights, celebrating music and performance across the school. KS2 pupils traditionally learn a winter-themed song to perform for parents and carers, while EYFS pupils sing Nativity songs, with Year 1 and Year 2 pupils also performing the nativity story. This year, we will rebrand the *Winter Sing-Off* by launching *Sing Through Time* — a new approach that explores a variety of musical genres and historical periods. This adaptation aims to broaden pupils' musical exposure, deepen their understanding of musical heritage, and further develop performance skills through a more diverse and engaging experience.

Another yearly highlight in our calendar is the Year 2 visit to the Pantomime, where our children are taken to the local theatre to experience professional music and drama. The Pantomime inspires our children to then re-create their own performance in our KS1 Nativity.

Students in Year 3 will work towards a performance to their parents and carers, as well as a performance to KS1 at the end of their ukulele whole-class instrumental lessons in spring term.

Finally, children in Year 6 perform a Leaver's Song to mark the end of their time at Devonshire Road. This is performed to their friends, peers and staff in a whole-school concert in our school hall, and performed once more to their parents and carers.

Extra-curricular music pupils have many performance opportunities throughout the year; ukulele concerts for parents/carers, Rock Steady concerts for the whole-school as well as parents/carers, the choir will perform at assemblies and attend rehearsals and a performance at Victoria Hall.

We strongly believe that our curriculum and extra-curricular music activities allow our children to experience the many wonders of music, whilst supporting the local passionate and professional musicians in our community.

In the future

At Devonshire Road Primary school we are committed to continually enhancing musical offerings to all pupils. Below are the improvements we plan to implement in the coming years.

During this academic year of 2025-2026, we aim to continue participating in the Bolton Schools Music Festival event during summer, to continue providing an amazing opportunity for children to perform as part of a large choir at a professional venue, alongside experienced musicians.

With the purchase of a digital piano for our school hall, we are exploring the possibility of offering private in-house piano lessons to further enrich our music offer.

We will also be continuing to partner with Rock Steady and Front-row Music, providing band experiences and small-group ukulele lessons to our pupils in Year 1-6, at an affordable price.

Devoted to our children at Devonshire Road, we will continue to recognise interests and talents, and are willing to enquire about other instrumental tuition, should the interest arrive.

We endeavour to embed regular performances where our students can participate as audience members; we will be inviting Rock Steady to perform and engage with our students, nurturing the budding interests of our children. We are also networking with local and nationwide musicians and those within the music industry, with the intention of inviting them to our school to delivery informative workshops to our KS2 pupils about different jobs and career paths.