

# Music development plan summary: James Cambell Primary School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	C. Redmond
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Barking and Dagenham Community Music Service
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.

### **The music curriculum**

Music is a powerful and enjoyable way for children to express themselves and understand the world around them. It brings people together across different cultures, abilities and generations, and helps children explore their emotions as well as develop their thinking skills.

At James Cambell Primary School our Music curriculum aims to inspire a lifelong love of music and encourage every child to enjoy making music in all its forms. We want our pupils to develop confidence, creativity and a strong foundation of musical skills through engaging and practical lessons where everyone can succeed.

Through singing, playing instruments, listening to a wide range of music and composing their own pieces, children are given many opportunities to express themselves and work collaboratively. Music also supports learning in other areas of the curriculum and helps children develop important life skills such as listening carefully, concentrating, building self-confidence, and showing respect for others and the environment.

To support high-quality teaching and learning, we use Charanga, an interactive music programme that introduces children to a variety of musical styles and genres. Lessons encourage children to listen, perform, explore musical elements and create their own music. Where possible, music is linked to classroom topics, but it is also taught as a discrete subject so that children can fully develop their musical understanding and skills.

At James Cambell Primary School, all pupils in year 4 are taught to play the guitar during their 1 hour weekly music lesson.

### **Extra-curricular music**

#### **Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles**

At James Cambell, we are proud to offer a wide range of exciting musical opportunities beyond classroom music lessons, enabling all pupils to develop their musical skills, confidence and creativity.

#### **Rocksteady**

We work in partnership with Rocksteady Music School to provide weekly music lessons for pupils across the whole school. Through Rocksteady, children have the opportunity to learn and perform as part of a band, developing skills in:

- Vocals
- Guitar
- Bass guitar
- Keyboard
- Drums

Pupils rehearse and perform together, helping to build teamwork, confidence and performance skills. As children progress, they can achieve music curriculum-based accreditations and certificates to celebrate their musical development.

#### **Piano Fun**

We also offer Piano Fun tuition for pupils throughout the school. These lessons are available as either one-to-one or one-to-two sessions and provide opportunities to learn:

- Keyboard
- Guitar

Children are able to progress through graded learning and develop their instrumental skills at their own pace.

There are fees associated with both Rocksteady and Piano Fun tuition. Further information regarding costs and availability can be obtained from the school office.

### **Choir**

Our school choir is open to pupils in **Years 3 to 6** and provides a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their singing, performance and ensemble skills. Choir participation is free of charge.

Pupils audition to join the choir and take part in a range of performances throughout the year, including:

- The Barking and Dagenham Music Festival
- Christmas performances
- Summer Fair performances
- Other school and community events

These opportunities help pupils gain confidence and experience performing to audiences both within school and in the wider community.

### **Supporting Musical Progress**

Our extra-curricular music opportunities allow pupils to continue developing their musical skills beyond lesson time through:

- Regular rehearsals and performances
- Ensemble and choir participation
- Instrumental tuition
- Accredited musical achievements and certificates

## **Musical performances**

### **Musical Performances and Events**

At James Cambell, music plays an important role in school life and provides pupils with regular opportunities to perform, celebrate and experience music both within school and in the local community.

Throughout the academic year, pupils take part in a wide range of musical performances, concerts and celebrations that develop confidence, creativity and a love of music.

## **School Performances**

Pupils across the school participate in a variety of musical events, including:

- Christmas concerts, Nativity performances and Easter celebrations at the local church
- The annual School Music Festival
- Choir performances at the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival
- Cultural celebration performances throughout the year
- End-of-term and seasonal performances for families and the school community

All children across the school have opportunities to take part in musical performances through class singing, assemblies, productions and themed events.

## **Choir and Ensemble Performances**

Pupils in the school choir, from Years 3 to 6, regularly perform both within school and in the wider community. The choir represents the school at events such as the Barking and Dagenham Music Festival, as well as school celebrations and community performances throughout the year.

## **Music in Assemblies and Celebrations**

Music is a central part of assemblies at James Cambell. Children regularly learn and perform songs linked to themes, celebrations and important cultural events. Assemblies often include live performances, singing and music linked to pupils' learning.

For example:

- Songs linked to Eid and Ramadan celebrations
- Black History Month performances exploring the history of Black music across different eras
- Songs celebrating different cultures, traditions and historical events throughout the year

These opportunities allow pupils to explore a wide range of musical styles, traditions and genres while developing performance skills and cultural understanding.

## **Whole-School Music Festival**

Our annual School Music Festival involves every child in the school. Each year group prepares a themed musical performance which is showcased over three days. Families and members of the school community are invited to attend and celebrate the children's achievements.

The festival provides opportunities for all pupils to:

- Perform to an audience

- Work collaboratively
- Develop confidence and stage presence
- Celebrate music and creativity together

### **Inclusion and Participation**

We aim to ensure that all pupils have access to musical experiences and performance opportunities throughout the year,. Many school-based performances and events are free for pupils and families to attend.

### **Future developments**

At James Cambell, we are committed to continually developing and enhancing our music provision to ensure that all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences and opportunities.

Over the next academic year, we plan to further develop our co-curricular music offer by introducing additional music clubs for pupils to engage with. Planned opportunities include:

- Recorder Club
- Additional instrumental clubs and ensembles

These clubs will provide pupils with further opportunities to develop instrumental skills, perform collaboratively and build confidence through music-making outside of lesson time.

We are also looking to expand the opportunities available for our school choir by increasing participation within the local community. Planned developments include performances at local community venues, such as care homes, allowing pupils to share their music with wider audiences and strengthen community links through performance.

As part of our curriculum development, we are aiming to introduce an additional year-group instrumental focus. From the next academic year, we hope for Year 2 pupils to learn music through whole-class recorder tuition. This will mirror the Year 4 whole-class instrumental teaching currently in place and will provide children with the opportunity to experience and develop skills on a wider range of instruments throughout their time at school.

These developments will continue to strengthen our music curriculum and ensure pupils have regular opportunities to:

- Perform and compose music

- Learn and play instruments
- Work collaboratively in ensembles and groups
- Develop confidence and creativity through music
- Experience a broad and diverse musical education

Through these planned improvements, we aim to further enrich musical experiences for all pupils and continue building a vibrant musical culture across the school.