

Music development plan summary: Kings Norton Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023 - 2024
Date this summary was published	22.09.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	02.09.25
Name of the school music lead	Stephanie Flight
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mark Sheehan
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Partnership as part of Services for Education
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.

At Kings Norton Primary School, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two are taught music through the Charanga Scheme for between 45 - 60 minutes every week. The Charanga Scheme follows an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning. It is taught through a combination of subject knowledge and composing, performing, listening and appraising skills. The Charanga units have been customised specifically for our school. This year we plan to further align this to the model music curriculum as set out within Charanga. Throughout all year groups, pupils are given the opportunity to play a range of untuned and tuned percussion.

Music technology is a focus during some of the units; for example, Year 2 learn composition skills using a website called Music Lab and Year 6 are taught a unit based on composing a soundscape to accompany a story using the music technology tools on Charanga.

Staff are also encouraged to use singing as a learning tool across the curriculum. All teaching staff have access Sparkyard which includes lots of ideas and songs related to cross curricular learning. Access to Sing Up is also currently being rolled out.

In EYFS, music is an integral part of our daily school life. Routines are often sung, and learning core skills is often taught through singing. EYFS teaching staff make good use of the songs available on Sparkyard. Curriculum music teaching comes through many threads of the EYFS framework, such as Communication and Language, Expressive Arts and Design, and Physical Development.

Year 2 are taught the recorder in whole class sessions for one hour a week throughout the Summer term.

Throughout Year 3, pupils receive one hour weekly Steel Pan and Djembe lessons by peripatetic teaching staff from our hub, Services for Education. This is a highlight for many pupils.

In Year 4, pupils receive one hour weekly Glockenspiel lessons for a 6 week period.

These whole class instrumental lessons are designed to inspire pupils to start or continue extra curricular instrumental lessons.

Our curriculum lessons are inclusive and ensure that all pupils including those with SEND and/or disabilities are able to access all of our lessons and additional adult support is provided where required.

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.

Music as a co-curricular activity is of high importance at Kings Norton Primary School. Key Stage One and Key Stage Two partake in separate weekly 25 minute singing assemblies led by the music lead and co-lead, which provide opportunities to embed classroom learning of musical dimensions and promote a love and enthusiasm for singing across school. Music from a range of genres and composers is played as children enter and exit assembly, as a further exposure to high quality music.

Pupils in KS2 are offered the opportunity to learn instruments such as keyboard, violin, drums, steel pans and guitar, through peripatetic individual or group music lessons provided by visiting teachers from Music for Education. We also offer 'Rock Steady' sessions via an external provider which are very popular amongst pupils, teaching a variety of instruments through rock and pop music. The vast majority of tuition takes place during the afternoons in our designated 'Creative Room' which allows the teachers an excellent space, free from distractions. These lessons are paid for by parents but subsidised by the school. There is also additional financial support available for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding who express a particular interest or talent in music, in order to make instrumental lessons accessible. Pupils can work towards awards, including graded exams. Awards are celebrated in Celebration Assemblies to which parents are invited. For most instrumental lessons, pupils take home their instruments and practise is encouraged. Feedback to parents is through an annual written report. Peripatetic teaching staff also have good relationships with the class teachers so any notable achievements of progress or effort is often fed back verbally.

The pupils who learn through the peripatetic lessons showcase their fluency, control and expression skills and progression in assemblies at least twice a year (Rock Steady once per term). This allows the pupils to build their self-confidence as a performer in solo and group contexts, and also promotes instrumental lessons to the rest of the school. The pupils as an audience have the opportunity to listen to a range of musical genres, including appreciating the professional skills of the peripatetic teachers.

All KS2 pupils are invited to join the school choir, led by the music lead. Choir sessions are held during lunchtimes in order to maximise the number of pupils who are able to attend. Music from a range of genres is enjoyed and sung, and there is an importance placed on both having fun and producing a high quality sound. The choir are invited to sit in a designated area during singing assemblies as they often support and help to lead the rest of the key stage, especially during two-part singing.

The choir performs for their peers and parents at least once a term. Songs are learnt and performed, usually off by heart, for special occasions such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and during Leavers' Assemblies. The choir also often partake in an outdoor performance at the annual Kings Norton Christmas Light Switch On, with an audience of parents and members of the local community.

Once a year, pupils from Years 4-6 are invited to perform at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham as part of the Youth Proms. This is opened up to all pupils in Years 4-6, who are ready to show commitment to rehearsing weekly.

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.

Pupils at Kings Norton Primary School are offered excellent musical experiences.

Pupils enjoy two or three performances a year by their peers who are having instrumental tuition.

All pupils in EYFS and KS1 take part in a nativity performance during which all pupils sing as a group and some solo or smaller group opportunities are also given.

Pupils in KS2 rehearse for and attend a Carol Concert in the local church. This allows for high quality group singing of both sacred and secular music in a venue with super acoustics, performing to and with an audience. Pupils and parents are then invited back to the school for a reception with mince pies and warm drinks, during which the children who learn steel pans perform to an enthusiastic audience!

Pupils are invited to audition for the KS2 Talent Show in the Summer term, many of whom choose to sing or play an instrument.

Pupils in Year 6 perform in an end of year show, which again allows for large group, smaller group and solo singing and is a true celebration of their time at primary school.

Children in Year 4 or 5 engage with The Royal Opera House as part of the Elliot Foundation's Arts projects. This involves a series of lessons (upskilling teachers and pupils alike), leading to the culmination of the project in an incredible and inspirational venue. In past years, this has involved pupils singing an opera by Mozart as part of a massed choir of 2000 children.

The Youth Proms performance open to pupils from Year 4-6 gives a feeling of awe and wonder as pupils perform songs to an enormous audience at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham, accompanied by a large professional band and lead by a conductor from

Services for Education. During the second half of the concert, pupils enjoy listening to performances by other orchestras, bands and ensembles, which inspires instrumental musicianship.

In the future

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

- Further liaise with other schools within our Trust to discuss and share good practice.
- Engage with CPD training, especially regarding Charanga to ensure progression and assessment opportunities are built in.
- Continue to upskill class teachers to ensure sound musical knowledge as a basis for confident curriculum teaching.
- Investigate the opportunity for an after school Rock Steady club and match funding for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding.