

Music development plan summary: King's Wood School and Nursery

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-5
Date this summary was published	27 November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 November 2025
Name of the school music lead	Lara Virgo
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Chiltern Music Academy Rock Steady

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:

Music is taught discretely as a subject throughout the school. It is also used as a vehicle to support learning and engagement more widely in the curriculum.

All year groups have weekly music lessons, delivered by class teachers who are supported with resources, including Charanga, and CPD from the music lead. All pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, participate in music. The curriculum is carefully designed to build progressively on the key musical skills outlined in the Model Music Curriculum, but also to ensure that pupils with widely ranging skills can participate in lessons make progress.

King's Wood's music curriculum can be found [here](#). In essence, it is built on the principles and guidance of the Model Music Curriculum and is structured around 5 themes:

- Singing
- Playing and performing with instruments
- Composition and improvisation
- Music through the ages (i.e. music through history and across cultures)
- School productions (play performances with songs performed by each year group)

As part of this curriculum, outside specialists support instrumental learning:

- Reception and Year 1 have drumming workshops, delivered by **Primary Workshops for Schools** which are followed up with whole class ensemble lessons on djembe (African drums), led by class teachers
- Year 2 have a term of whole class ensemble violin lessons, delivered by **Chiltern Music Academy**
- Year 3 have tuned percussion workshops (steel pan) delivered by **Solid Steel Band** which are followed up with whole class ensemble lessons on xylophone, led by class teachers
- Year 4 have Ukulele workshops delivered by **The Utterly Butterly Ukulele Project**, which are followed up with whole class ensemble lessons on ukulele, led by class teachers.
- Year 5 have woodwind and brass workshops delivered by Lara Virgo, which are followed up with whole class ensemble lessons on recorder, led by class teachers.
- Year 6 learn keyboard instruments in whole class ensemble lessons, led by class teachers, and this is enriched through a visit to a church to learn about, and experience, the pipe organ.

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 also have weekly music assemblies which include singing and listening to music from a wide range of time periods, cultures and genre.

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.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to join the Key Stage 2 choir. We spend September – February learning and practicing songs for the **Young Voices** concert in Wembley, which all of the choir attends. In the spring and summer terms, the choir focuses on learning music for our summer performance. School covers the cost both of the choir and the concert trip. In the summer term, the Key Stage 2 choir participates in the Primary Singing Day at **Royal Grammar School**.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 are encouraged to join the Key Stage 1 choir which takes place during Spring 2 and the summer term. The focus is on learning music for our summer performance. Again, costs are covered by school.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are offered peripatetic music lessons and can choose from guitar, violin and piano. School heavily subsidises these lessons for all pupils; parents pay a flat rate of £35 per term (discounted from £120). Year 2 pupils are also invited to sign up for violin lessons after their term of whole class violin. For pupils learning violin and guitar, we loan instruments free of charge.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are offered places in Rocksteady Bands; again these are subsidised by school from £36 per term to £15.

Lunchtime instrument clubs including wind band (recorders) and ukulele club were offered in 2023-4. These will resume in Spring Term this academic year and are free.

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 participate in a wide range of musical experiences at King's Wood:

- All pupils participate in Music Week – this is a week in June where a range of performers are invited to school – including:
 - Junk orchestra or Beat box workshop (alternating years)
 - Jazz band from Royal Grammar School
 - Recitals from Oxford University students
 - Performances from our peripatetic teachers: violin, piano and guitar
 - Pupil performances – all musicians, whether they learn instruments in our out of school, regardless of their stage of learning. Parents as well as pupils are invited to attend.

- All pupils attend a pantomime performance at school
- All pupils perform and sing, each year, in their school production
- Year 4 pupils attend the London Philharmonic Brightsparks concert at the Royal Festival Hall
- KS2 choir members attend the Young Voices concert in Wembley and the Primary Singing Day at Royal Grammar School
- KS1 choir and KS2 choir perform at a choir concert in the summer term
- Rocksteady members perform in termly concerts to parents

In the future

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

Priorities identified in the music action plan include:

- Increase performance opportunities for children
- Further support and training for staff
- Developing the assessment of pupils' musical learning and progress

Further information and partnerships

Department for Education:

- 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.

Our Partnerships for Music:

- Buckinghamshire Music Trust
- Chiltern Music Academy
- Rocksteady
- Royal Grammar School
- University of Oxford