

## Music development plan summary: [Downe Primary School]

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Blundell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Bromley Music Trust
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.

*“Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.”* National Curriculum (2014).

At Downe Primary, music is a weekly lesson for all our children where we use instruments, including the voice, to enjoy and learn about music. It is a fulfilling subject which develops skills useful in many other areas, for example in developing language and purposeful listening, in addition to boosting emotional well-being.

### **Music Curriculum**

We teach music using the *Music Express* scheme of learning which is aligned with the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum. Music lessons also form part of our International Primary Curriculum and are taught as appropriate to topics studied.

- Our children have the opportunity to perform, listen to, analyse and evaluate music from across a wide range of genres, historical periods, styles and traditions and includes studying the work of composers and musicians.
- The children learn to sing and to compose their own pieces of music both independently and within a group. They also have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.
- Children develop an understanding of how music is created, produced and communicated using the inter-related musical dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and musical notations.

Each half term, every class has a topic which links to study in other curriculum areas for that term. Since our classes are mixed age, we operate on a two-year cycle.

Lessons are planned to provide support, as well as challenge, to ensure every child can develop at their own pace. Children are given the opportunity to think creatively, share ideas and present their work. Emphasis is put on enjoyment and on the pleasure of sharing music with others.

Assessment of each child's musical development is ongoing and reported to parents at the end of each year.

All children from Reception to Year 6 sing together in our weekly music assemblies where we teach vocal warm ups and skills for singing, as well as introducing instrumental accompaniment and simple dance moves. Songs are chosen to practise different musical techniques, such as singing in a round or using different rhythmic devices, but our overall aim is to provide a shared and uplifting experience for the children.

## **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.

To further enhance music at Downe, our children are given a Pupil Passport, which ensures that by the end of Key Stage 2 they will have learnt how to play an instrument and have had the opportunity to see a live show.

At certain points in the year, children in Key Stage 2 come together to form a choir allowing them to progress further with their musical techniques, eg singing in parts, following a conductor, varying tone and volume.

We also currently offer instrumental tuition on piano and drums and children are able to access a practice room at school if they do not have their own instrument.

## **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.

Every year, all children at Downe take part in a musical show. At Christmas, all our younger children put on a performance linked to the Nativity story and in the summer

KS2 produce a musical where everyone has a major part to play. In our small school, everyone has a chance to shine.

At Christmas and Easter, children sing in our local church as part of the celebrations for those festivals.

In Years 5 and 6, everyone works together to take part in our Downe Samba Band, a long-standing tradition, leading to a performance either at school or at another venue in the community.

We also regularly take part in *Young Voices*, the mass choir concert at the O2 Arena.

Our pupils who take instrumental lessons, either within or outside of school, have the opportunity to perform on their instrument in concerts throughout the school year.

Every year, we take our children to the Royal Festival Hall to experience the two interactive *BrightSparks* concerts put on by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

## In the future

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

Opportunities for children to have individual lessons on a wider range of instruments

## Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.