

Music development plan summary: New Town Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Gemma Anderson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nikita Lambe
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Berkshire Music Trust, Music Mark

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision (music tuition, choirs and ensembles) 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.

Curriculum plan:

Music is inclusive for all learners using macro and micro adaptations.

Music is taught consistently for every year group every week across the year and is within every timetable. 40 minutes is timetabled as explicit discrete music teaching per week using a scheme called Charanga; we provide a further 20 minutes' experience per week in Tuneful Tuesday assemblies where there is a focus on enjoyment and being part of a massed choir rooted in skills development. In Foundation Stage, music is delivered through holistic practice as an integral part of early development and musical development matters. Rhymes and songs in early years are planned into a progressive model, ensuing children benefit from the rhythm and rhyme they provide on a daily basis.

Children have the opportunity to progress in glockenspiels from Year 1 to 6 to develop their skills. Also available are tuned and other untuned percussion instruments. Children sing in most music lessons as well as assemblies every week. Singing is used to support developing class ethos and to support learning across the curriculum, as well as to mark festivals and special occasions together. They learn to perform to an audience in large groups and use harmonies and actions to enhance their performance. Children enjoy these opportunities, and benefit from the mental health boost this provides.

Berkshire Music Trust provides instrument lessons in Year 4 for 10 weeks for an hour per week in place of curriculum music lessons. The specialist tuition is helpful to ensure we teach an instrument well, and also has the added benefit of improving teachers own musical teaching skills.

New Town follows the Charanga Model Music Curriculum Scheme, a scheme aligned to the listening, notation, skills and year-by-year progression pathway of the DfE's Model Music Curriculum.

Part B: Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles

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.

New Town offers Rocksteady band opportunities which includes drums, electric guitar, bass, voice. Disadvantaged pupils benefit from Rocksteady bursaries. Performance opportunities are built into the programme which is made accessible during school hours.

Choir engagements at events and in the community are extensive and run throughout the year including performances at the Hexagon and Reading Minster, the train station and hospital. They also perform onstage at the East Reading Festival at Palmer Park and Carols by Candlelight as well as other school events. These provide purposeful occasions to share their passion for singing.

Information is sent to parents regularly about wider music opportunities Universal Voices which a free choir run by the University of Reading for young people.

New Town benefits from a dedicated arts loft where ensemble rehearsals and large-scale performances take place.

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.

All children sing weekly in assemblies on Tuneful Tuesdays. All school events marking special occasions are a chance to learn and perform a variety of singing material, and children have the opportunity to adapt this for their audience, for example, singing 1950s songs when visiting a home for the elderly, or adapting their performance styles for sombre events such as marking Remembrance day.

Whole-school music competitions take place annually, culminating in a whole-school concert. Music outcomes are often shared and performed either live to parents, or other pupils. Group performances help those who are less confident to discover the joys of performing to an appreciative audience.

The choir and singing clubs organise an outdoor charity concert each year, with families and local community representatives invited.

Year 6 perform a musical production each year to the whole school.

Almost all musical experiences are provided free of charge to the children; where they are charged we are mindful of keeping costs accessible.

In the future

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

New Town hopes to build into the curriculum more opportunities for live performances (including a school performance in the Spring Term) and to explore the potential to attend concerts outside of school for KS2 year groups.

We will be exploring and considering further music partnerships within the local area.

To expose our children to a wide range of music in a carefully considered way, we aim to develop or obtain a listening curriculum for music to be played in assemblies.