

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	December 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Richard Cuell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hounslow Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

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

At Alexandra Primary School, we follow the national curriculum for teaching music, we also follow the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum, published by the DfE in March 2021. Our weekly curriculum music lessons are based around the Kapow schemes of work for music and supplemented where necessary with Charanga. We want all children to develop the self-confidence, skills, knowledge, and understanding to develop a lifelong love of music, whilst also providing a secure foundation that enables them to take music further should they wish to. This is then further enhanced with each child in KS2 having an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Currently, Year 3 have weekly lessons where they learn how to play the Ukulele. Alongside this, we have a well-resourced music and drama room with a wide range of percussion instruments for teachers to use within their curriculum lessons.

A specialist music teacher, provided by Hounslow Music Service, teaches the ukulele instrumental lessons and class teachers teach from the Kapow units of work. In a recent OFSTED report, it was found that in most schools, the weakest aspect of the curriculum was teaching pupils to become better at composition. Kapow provides children with opportunities across the key stages to progressively develop their skills in performance, listening, composition and also learn about the history of music.

Kapow Primary’s Music scheme has been designed as a spiral curriculum with the following key principles in mind:

Cyclical: Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge again and again during their time in primary school.

Increasing depth: Each time a skill or area of knowledge is revisited it, is covered with greater

depth.

Prior knowledge: Upon returning to a skill, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

Kapow Music is designed and written by subject specialists to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum, the EYFS statutory framework and Music Development Matters. It sets out the skills, knowledge, vocabulary and understanding to be gained by all pupils at each stage of learning, including EYFS. The 9 inter-related dimensions of music run throughout lessons as an overarching strand. These are: pulse, pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notation.

With each unit and every lesson plan being supplied by Kapow our aim is to utilise these comprehensive teaching resources and clear delivery guidance to save teachers time, support their subject knowledge, and give them confidence in teaching music practically. Lessons are then adapted to meet the needs of each class and to support individuals to access the learning more effectively.

Every child throughout the school takes part in a music lesson every week. We use Kapow in Reception, and Year 1 through to Year 6 (showing consistency and progression throughout the school).

In addition to our weekly music lessons, children in KS1 and KS2 learn and practice songs within their classes to sing in the weekly celebration assembly. These songs are usually taken from Out of the Ark.

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.

Alexandra Primary offers small group lessons in guitar for KS2 pupils. Parents and carers pay for these lessons provided by an experienced guitar teacher; however, the Pupil Premium Grant could be used to subsidise cost if applicable.

There is a KS2 choir at Alexandra Primary School. This choir are inclusive and open to all children and perform yearly. This year they will be performing at Voice in a Million at Wembley Arena.

In addition to this, children in KS1 and KS2 also have the opportunity to learn an instrument with Rocksteady Music School. Rocksteady provides a weekly in-school fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons for our school. This covers vocals, keyboards, drums, electric guitar and bass. These lessons are paid for by parents and carers, however bursary places are available for pupil premium children. We currently have over 50 children taking part in this and are running 8 bands.

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.

Last academic year, we were extremely lucky to be chosen for a new singing programme called 'Songstars' launched by the Choral Foundation of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. 'Songstars', is a children's singing programme that offers enhanced singing support to state primary school children in South West London who have little or no access to music. The singing programme involved 10 weekly school visits per term. Additionally, the programme has involved both implicit and explicit CPD elements for teachers to promote sustainability of high-quality singing leadership in our school. At the end of the programme, the children performed at the prestigious Chapel Royal with a professional choir.

Every Christmas, Nursery and Reception classes learn a range of Christmas songs and perform these to their parents at our EYFS Singalong event. within their classes and perform at the Xmas Factor. Children in Year 2 also perform in a Festive Singalong at the end of the Autumn Term. In July, Year 6 children put on a production with acting, singing and dancing.

Throughout the year, those classes who are not involved in year group productions prepare a class assembly for parents that includes performing a song or musical showcase. There are also regular enrichment workshops in school including African Drumming and Bollywood Dance and Hobgoblin Theatre company.

At the end of very term, children involved in the Rocksteady Music School perform in a concert for their parents and peers to showcase what they have been learning. The choir will perform at least once per year with professional singers at either Voice in a Million or Young Voices.

In the future

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

- Develop the use and understanding of key vocabulary in music.
- Develop more co-curricular music opportunities for KS1 children.
- Review how pupil's progress and attainment in music is assessed.
- Further develop enrichment opportunities for children to experience diverse live music and performance outside of school.