

Music development plan summary: Unity Community Primary

Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025-2026 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Katy Burton |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | |
| Name of local music hub | North Music Centre |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/ https://oneeducationmusic.co.uk/ |

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 an essential part of every young person's education, building their confidence, creativity, cultural awareness and many more transferable skills which underpin their success across the whole school curriculum.

At Unity we follow the Kapow Music curriculum.

Kapow Primary's Music scheme of work is built around the following five key areas which ensure alignment with the National Curriculum:

- **Listening and evaluating** – expressing musical preferences; exploring the impact of musical ideas; understanding how effects are created by combining musical elements.

- **Creating sound** – exploring the children’s vocal skills; developing skills to manipulate sounds on a range of instruments.
- **Notation** – recognising the basics of musical notation; reading simple rhythmic patterns; developing the foundational knowledge of how staff and graphic notations can communicate music.
- **Improvising and composing** – creating and refining the children’s own music through improvisation and notation; experimenting with styles and features; employing musical concepts to add interest.
- **Performing** – using voices expressively; developing instrumental control and expression; performing as part of a group.

The Kapow Primary Music scheme is designed to help pupils recognise themselves as musical and to nurture a lifelong love of music.

The scheme develops the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. The curriculum introduces pupils to music from across the world, encouraging respect and appreciation for the music of all traditions and communities.

Pupils build musical skills through singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, improvising, composing and listening and responding to music. They develop an understanding of the historical and cultural context of the music they encounter and learn how music can be notated.

The scheme also supports the development of transferable skills, including teamwork, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and presentation and performance abilities. These skills are integral to pupils’ development as learners and have wide application in their lives beyond school.

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

- **Cyclical** – pupils revisit key knowledge and skills in different contexts.
- **Increasing depth** – each time a skill is revisited, it is covered with greater complexity.
- **Prior knowledge** – pupils build upon existing foundations rather than starting again.

This approach reinforces knowledge and skills and supports long-term retention and progression. It allows pupils to make links between different topics, draw on their prior learning and apply it flexibly to new and increasingly challenging musical pieces, styles and composition tasks.

Kapow Primary’s Music scheme is designed to be taught for one hour per week to meet the needs of the National curriculum.

Knowledge and skills developed through the Kapow Curriculum:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- Inter-related dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure, timbre

Alongside the Kapow curriculum we have chosen three composers to focus on and ensure that our children are familiar with a range of their work. In each year group, the children will learn two songs/ compositions from each composer, so they are well versed in a variety of their work. During their time at Unity, children will learn how to sing or recognise 12 pieces of music from each composer and learn some facts about them and their musical legacy.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

One Education Music's service is designed to provide high-quality and accessible musical opportunities to pupils in all settings, responding to needs at all levels of experience, and creating pathways towards a lifelong love of music.

One Education Music works with Unity to deliver fully funded steel pan lessons to all children in Year 3.

Unity partners with Rocksteady Music School to deliver fun and inclusive rock and pop band lessons. Children can choose to learn guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, drums or sing.

Rocksteady weekly music lessons take place in school and are led by highly trained professional musicians who know how to inspire a love for music. It's the perfect way for children to learn new musical skills, make friends and have fun, all whilst boosting confidence, wellbeing, social skills and academic achievement.

Children can achieve the official Ofqual regulated 'Music Performance in Bands' qualification which is accredited by Trinity College London and is an exam and pressure free music qualification.

There is a charge to parents for Rocksteady lessons, but we have also chosen to allocate some of our Pupil Premium funding to ensure that we can extend our music offer.

Unity also partners with Link Learning to provide high-quality, creative music tuition in guitar and piano. These 1-1 and small group lessons focus on creativity, confidence, and real progress on the instrument.

Weekly lessons take place in school every Monday with our specialist music tutor George.

There is a charge to parents for Link Learning lessons.

To support our children to access music opportunities outside of school we have developed an excellent relationship with the North Music Centre. This is a lively and friendly centre for children aged 3-18.

We share information and offer with our families and encourage them to access this amazing resource.

The North music centre offers a wide range of musical opportunities covering lots of styles for all ages. They have samba, folk (ceilidh), rock & pop bands as well as wind, brass and string groups. They also offer vocal groups and song writing sessions. Children under 8 have Polkadots music making sessions and ukulele groups.

Part C: Musical experiences

Singing Assemblies take place each week with EYFS and KS1 rotating with KS2. Children enjoy learning a range of different vocal warm up techniques and singing a variety of songs. They also listen carefully to different genres of music while identifying different instruments that they can hear.

EYFS and KS1 enjoy an annual theatre performance that showcases a variety of musical instruments including a flute and an accordion.

The Nursery curriculum covers 24 essential songs and rhymes that our youngest children will learn during their time in the Daycare and Nursery classes. This supports their communication and language development alongside promoting a love of songs and rhymes.

The annual Christmas performance gives every child at Unity an opportunity to learn and perform a variety of songs in front of an audience. Children are accompanied by a piano and guitar during their performance.

Every year a group of Unity children from across year groups attend a local care setting to perform Christmas Carols. At other times of the year the children perform a variety of songs that they have learnt in singing assemblies. This unique opportunity gives children the experience of performing for a public audience outside of the school environment.

Children and families are encouraged to take up musical opportunities offered at The North Music Hub. This includes samba, folk (ceilidh), rock & pop bands as well as wind, brass and string groups. The Hub also offers vocal groups and song writing sessions.

In the future

At Unity we believe that all children should have equal access to a music rich education that inspires and enriches their lives. We believe that talent should be identified and nurtured and that adults should work together to remove any barriers to accessing musical opportunity.

To ensure that we are working towards this goal we plan to:

- Develop a tracking system that records and checks the number of vulnerable children engaging in extra-curricular music activities; review the school's budget and further ensure equality of provision for children who are unable to access paid-for tuition
- Embed a program of CPD of teaching staff to increase their confidence and competence
- Develop stronger links with the North Music Hub and seek further opportunities for pupils identified as having significant musical ability to pursue their talent
- Prioritise opportunities for pupils accessing paid-for tuition (including disadvantaged pupils) to perform to live audiences

Further information

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

<https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/teaching-learning/music/>

https://oneeducationmusic.co.uk/documents/pdf/176/9/North_Timetable_Overviewpdf-1769181397418.pdf

<https://linklearning.education/>