

Music development plan summary: Grove School

All schools should have a music development plan. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-2025. Grove School published their plan in March 2025. It has been reviewed in November 2025 and will be reviewed again for autumn 2026.

This plan sets out how we 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 and 2
- 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

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ms R Harris
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	-
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Ceol Creatives

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 section 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.

At Grove School, learning about music starts in Early Years Foundation Stage. Pupils have the opportunity to listen attentively, move to and talk about music. They are encouraged to express their feelings and responses to music. There is a curriculum, designed by leaders at Grove for nursery rhymes. Pupils in EYFS learn and join in with nursery rhymes and songs. They are encouraged to explore making music using percussion instruments or resources they find and make instruments with indoors and outdoors. As pupils develop an understanding of the world they live in we encourage them to recognise the place of music in celebration.

At Grove our music curriculum is delivered using Kapow.

When pupils join Key Stage One they have a music book. They record their learning in their books and QR codes of music they have composed. This helps them to recall learning. The use of these music books continues into Key Stage Two. For each music project pupils have a knowledge organiser. This is used to help pupil recall and remember as do the music working walls in classrooms and central learning spaces in upper school.

Music is taught weekly in Key Stage One and in Key Stage Two. It is timetabled. Lessons typically are 30 minutes in Key Stage One and 1 hour in Key Stage Two (some lessons may be split into two 30-minute slots).

Pupils in Key Stage One learn to use body percussion to make music; to play simple rhythms; sing and perform songs; begin to be familiar with and use technical vocabulary associated with music (tempo, pitch, dynamic); create music and record using simple musical notation; recognise a range of musical instruments including those in an orchestra and have some understanding of how these instruments are played and the sound they make; compare pieces of music and share their opinion about music they have listened to. Children in Key Stage One take part in a weekly singing assembly led by the school music lead. In assemblies. Children learn songs from the Sparkyard website. This website also allows children to learn songs from across the curriculum. Pupils in Key Stage One sing the songs they have learnt in Friday assembly.

In Key Stage Two pupils build on their skills in composition. They create ballads and soundscapes, write and perform pentatonic melodies, create a jazz motif and a piece of music using a drone, rag and tal in Year 3. In Year 4 pupils use body percussion to create tunes, they study rock and roll music and play a piece of rock and roll music they have created, they create and perform an ostinato, they listen to samba music and use this as a basis to compose music with rhythmic breaks. In Year 5 pupils learn the key features of Blues music, they learn to play the Blues scale, they sing a traditional African song and add percussion, they learn that music can be represented with

colours and as a graphic score, they study the history of musical theatre and create and perform a musical theatre scene, they play a simple looped rhythm from notation. Pupils in Year 6 develop an understanding of the Kodaly music method, they improvise as a group to create a composition with a focus on dynamics and pitch, they appraise musical features in a range of film contexts and write lyrics for a song.

In both key stages pupils listen to and develop an appreciation of a wide range of music. The Kapow curriculum has identified pieces of music from a wide range of cultures and traditions as outlined in the DFE Model Music Curriculum (MMC), March 2021. Kapow units are taught over four half term blocks. The leader for music has chosen carefully the four units to be taught in class.

In Year 3 all pupils learn to play a recorder. Each pupil has a recorder to use in the lesson taught by their teacher. Recorder lessons are taught over two half term periods. Resources used include Sarah Watts – Red Hot Recorder book. This resource has backing tracks which are used to enhance the children's experience and enjoyment of learning an instrument. Staff have received training on this resource from the lead for music. The MMC aims that in Years 3 or 4, it is recommended that each class should start a whole-class instrumental programme lasting a minimum of one term. Opportunities for development should continue beyond the mandatory term. Children are encouraged to take the recorder home to practice simple tunes they have learned.

We are fortunate to work with Ceol Creatives. This is a specialist music company that provides every pupil in years 1 – 6 with a six-week block of singing tuition. 'Singing is a great strength of the primary sector. Through good vocal production, careful listening and well-developed sense of pitch, pupils should be able to sing in harmony and with musical delivery by the end of Year 6.' Children take part in weekly lessons with a trained opera singer and keyboard player. Over the course of the block, pupils work with the music professionals to learn a variety of warmups and songs, linked in a cross curricular manner. At the end of each unit, the year group perform as a whole ensemble to parents.

At the end of the autumn term, the school holds a Key Stage 2 Music Festival to enable children to become confident in a performance setting. The pupils work as a class to compose a piece of music which is then performed to peers and parents. Creating opportunities to celebrate, share and experience music of all kinds will consolidate the learning within the MMC.

The MMC aims that there should be access to both rhythmic and melodic instruments in Key Stages 1 and 2. Music resources at Grove are stored in an accessible manner. In Nursery and Reception, the instruments are available throughout the day, inside and out for the children to develop skills independently. An instrument trolley supports Years 1-3, a music box is stored for Year 4 and upper school have a dedicated music cupboard.

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.

The curriculum leader for music leads a choir club for years 3 - 6. This has been developed from two year groups to the whole of KS2. This after school club has already sparked the children's interest in learning to love singing. It is developing into a well-developed and popular club. There is no cost to parents. Performance opportunities are given throughout the year via assemblies or parent concerts.

In choir, the children are currently working towards gaining a Blue Peter music badge, designed by Ed Sheeran. This badge asks the children to discuss their passion for music, musical instruments or performing and answer some questions about music on Blue Peter.

In Year 5, every child has the opportunity to have a six-week block of keyboard taster sessions during the school day. The school has purchased ten new keyboards and stands to support this project.

The school has a sports hall and three halls for clubs and performances.

Music CPD for staff has been scheduled for December 2025. This training will include music theory and using this in a practical setting.

Part C: Music events and 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.

A new curriculum leader for music was appointed in January 2025. She started her work on enhancing musical experiences by offering a choir to pupils in year 3 and 4 and this has now grown to include children from Years 5 and 6. Enthusiasm for this club is growing. The choir have performed in a world book day assembly. As the choir grows the leader for music will plan the performance opportunities for this academic year.

In January 2026, the choir will be participating in a Wicked Singalong (a collection of songs from the acclaimed musical *Wicked*). Hosted by Young Voices the choir will join with a spectacular Wicked Worldwide Singalong live from The O2 in London on Thursday 22 January 2026. Emma Kingston, currently starring as Elphaba in the West End production of *Wicked*, will be joining live at The O2 – leading singers around the world in this unforgettable celebration of music, friendship and unity.

Pupils who have undertaken extra-curricular music lessons perform at the annual arts exhibition celebration.

The leader for music leads singing assemblies in KS 1 and lower KS 2. This is professional development for teachers and is developing listening and singing skills for pupils in an ensemble setting. Songs chosen for assemblies are linked to the assembly theme of the week or are linked to the Musician of the Month resources displayed in school. Children in these year groups also experience live performances from the school choir on a half termly basis.

Playground speakers have been purchased for the lower school playgrounds to enrich the environment during breaktimes.

In the future

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

Develop the curriculum to fit with the MMC expectations for ensemble instrument teaching – minimum of two half terms for an hour a week.

Complete staff CPD. To include, using the recorder resource Sarah Watts – Red Hot Recorder book, music theory and bucket drumming.

Organise for the autumn term 2026, developing our staff CPD skills in music technology.

In years 3 and 4, develop a lunchtime recorder club which is offered to children to develop their class skills and interest.

Establish pupil music leaders who will take responsibility for ensuring resources are put away as well as lead actions in assemblies.

Singing Playgrounds project with Ex Cathedra to develop staff knowledge of songs and rhymes for use in the outdoors (playtime and lunchtimes). The songs will be included on the Playground speakers USB so play leaders can lead games easily.

Outreach ensembles to visit school so that pupils experience live music at least once a year.

Write a singing curriculum linked to the work by Ceol Creatives. This should be a progression document with objectives and song titles included.

Develop a music page on the school website. This will make resources available to pupils when learning independently from home and develop links with parents.

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.