

Music Development Plan Summary

King Athelstan Primary School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Sam Thomas
Name of local music hub	Kingston Music Service

Part A – Curriculum Music

This section details the content of our music curriculum, why we teach the way we do, how we support the needs of all learners and our partnerships outside of the school.

How do we teach music at King Athelstan?

At King Athelstan, our curriculum is guided by the Model Music Curriculum and incorporates four key strands. Practical music lessons are one of the key strands, allowing students to actively engage in singing, playing instruments, and rhythm exercises. These hands-on activities allow the children to progress in their musical development through a series of structured exercises and guided practice. Children across King Athelstan Primary School have the opportunity to engage with a range of musical instruments, including keyboards, glockenspiels, and percussion from around the world. Particular emphasis is placed on the children's progression over time particularly when learning the djembe. The children revisit and build on their drumming skills at different stages throughout their time at the school. Another key part of this strand is our ukulele provision, where children in Year 4 are taught how to play throughout the year and are given a ukulele to take home to practise.

In addition to practical music lessons, composition lessons are integrated to encourage creativity and self-expression. Students learn the basics of composition, experimenting with musical ideas and constructing their compositions using various tools and technologies. This enables them to apply their understanding of musical concepts in a creative and innovative manner, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in their musical creations.

Musical appreciation and listening sessions are a pivotal aspect of the curriculum, where students are guided to explore a diverse array of musical genres, styles, and cultural traditions. These sessions emphasize the fundamental musical elements such as tempo, dynamics, timbre and structure, equipping them with the vocabulary to discuss and critically evaluate various compositions.

Singing is the cornerstone of our music curriculum at King Athelstan as it a universal form of expression, allowing children to communicate emotions and thoughts, promoting self-confidence and self-esteem. Singing lessons develop an early love for music and form the foundation for musical learning, developing aural skills, pitch accuracy, rhythm, and memory.

All of our music lessons are carried out in our dedicated music room which has topic-specific displays that reflect the content of our curriculum and aid learners in accessing the lessons.

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How do we meet the needs of all learners?

King Athelstan is an inclusive school and we believe that diversity needs to be embraced, celebrated and highlighted within the curriculum and through the culture of the school. Our children have the opportunity to access an enriching curriculum that supports community cohesion and enables all pupils to develop empathy and to see themselves as interconnected, global citizens. All children are given the opportunity to study the curriculum as we acknowledge and plan for the specific needs of all learners, ensuring equality. Through targeted feedback, a structured curriculum, and engaging tasks, our music classes cater to the diverse needs of all learners, ensuring every child finds enjoyment in listening to and creating music while receiving guidance to enhance their musical skills and understanding

How does our music curriculum build on Early Years Foundation Stage?

The music curriculum at King Athelstan begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage, where children's skills are developed through learning songs, movement and dance, and exploring sound using instruments. This foundation follows the statutory framework to nurture listening, creativity, and basic musical abilities. In Key Stage 1, the curriculum, guided by the Model Music Curriculum, builds on these skills by deepening students' understanding of the musical elements, developing their voices, and creating their own compositions. By Key Stage 2 (KS2), the curriculum continues to align with the Model Music Curriculum, further advancing students' technical skills, musical comprehension, and performance abilities. By building upon the children's previous learning, creating links between the wider curriculum and responding to the needs of every child, this progression ensures a cohesive and comprehensive musical education from Early Years Foundation Stage through Key Stage 2.

Why do we teach music in this way?

The intent of our music curriculum at King Athelstan is to provide a comprehensive and engaging education in music that fosters a lifelong appreciation and understanding of music. We aim to develop musical skills, creativity, and a love for music in every student, enabling them to express themselves, collaborate, and develop a sense of cultural appreciation through musical experiences. Music is an intrinsic part of everyday life at the school by being embedded in classroom activities as well as whole school weekly singing assemblies, celebrations and choir performances. Children from year 1 - 6 have weekly music lessons with a specialist music teacher where they have access to a wide range of quality instruments, resources and technology in our music room. Children will have the opportunity to learn a number of musical instruments with a focus on tuned percussion, djembe, keyboard and ukulele. For our ukulele provision, children in Year 4 are taught how to play throughout the year and are given a ukulele to take home for practise.

What partnerships does the school have?

King Athelstan Primary School has a partnership with Kingston Music Service (KMS) who provide high quality CPD opportunities to our music lead and provide all of our peripatetic teaching within the school. Currently this is focussed on 1:1 lessons on piano and guitar. In addition to this, KMS organise the annual singing festival which our KS2 Choir takes part in each year and provide ensembles which we hope to send more children to in future years.

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Part B – Co-curricular Music

This section details the opportunities children have to engage with music outside the classroom including peripatetic lessons, choir and singing assemblies.

Outside of lesson time, the children can have 1:1 or small group music tuition through Kingston Music Service Foundation and it is a key priority for us to increase the number of children taking part in this. In addition to this, children can join our KS2 Choir which is a big part in the life of the school. We have a number of performance opportunities throughout the year including: Kingston Schools Singing Festival, Sports Day 'Halftime Show', carol singing at John Lewis, the fairs throughout the year and end of term school celebrations. Within this we try to ensure that there as many solo opportunities as possible to develop the children's performance skills and their love for the performing arts.

Another key part in the life of music at King Athelstan is our weekly singing assemblies with Key Stage 1 and 2 having their own assembly each week. This ensures that the songs are delivered age appropriately and ensure that we can be just as ambitious with the songs we introduce to KS1 as they can be taught across a longer time frame. These assemblies are also a great opportunity for children to play the piano as the rest of the school comes in. This is a wonderful way for the children to develop their performance skills in a relatively low risk setting and is something the performers and spectators look forward to weekly.

Part C – Musical Experiences

This section details the opportunities the children have for musical experiences at our school and the events we hold yearly.

Throughout the school year, we have a number of events to enrich the children's musical learning and give them valuable experience as both a performer and spectator. Over the festive period, the children learn a number of songs and sing them together in an end of term celebration assembly. This is also an opportunity for the children to watch the choir perform and is crucial in ensuring that we have children wanting to participate in choir each year. Last year we also had our first 'Spring Showcase' which is an opportunity for children to perform on the stage for their parents and the school community. This is an auditioned event where the children can choose to perform a song, dance, piece or even magic trick that really connects with them. It was a huge success for the school and something we will now be running every year.

As mentioned in our curriculum provision, our Year 4 children have a whole year to learn to play the ukulele and are given an instrument to take home to practise. This culminates with a performance for parents and the Year 3 children who will be learning Ukulele next. We are now starting to incorporate song writing into this part of the curriculum and have this as a part of our performance in the form of a group composition.

In addition to this, our KS2 choir performs at the school fairs through the year (Festive and Summer). These are usually half an hour sets and are a wonderful opportunity for the children to gain performance experience and develop their love for the performing arts. We also aim to have other live performers at the event with previous performers being the Kingston Music Service Adult Wind Band, staff members and other groups within the wider school community. The summer term also culminates in the KS2 choir

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performing at the Sports Day in what we call our 'halftime show'. Again, this is a fantastic performance opportunity that brings the school community together.

Additionally, we have a number of musical theatre opportunities for the children throughout the year. EYFS, Reception and KS1 all have Christmas performances that involve singing and drama while Year 6 end their year with a show in the summer term. As well as this each year group has a class assembly throughout the year in which they share what they have learnt in that term through singing, dance and drama. We are fortunate at King Athelstan to have such a wide range of events for the children to take part in and we believe that this is essential in providing children with an enriching musical curriculum.

In the future...

This section details our key priorities for improving our music provision in the future.

King Athelstan Primary School's key priorities for music include increasing the number of children receiving 1:1 or small group instrumental lessons, which will allow for personalized instruction, skill development, and greater musical confidence. This will not only contribute to the wider life of the school but also of the borough as more children could partake in ensembles both in school and through Kingston Music Service. As well as this, we would like to give more opportunities for children to experience live music which will inspire creativity, broaden their cultural understanding, and enhance their appreciation for different musical styles. Additionally, we hope to increase the use of technology to create and record composition ideas which will help students develop modern music production skills, encourage innovation, and provide a platform for them to express their creativity in a contemporary context.