Music Development Plan Summary: Kings Oak Primary Learning Centre

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Andrea Mulcahy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sparkyard

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.

At Kings Oak School, we are committed to providing a broad, balanced and inclusive music curriculum that enables all children to develop their musical knowledge, skills and confidence. Our aim is to foster a love of music and provide children with opportunities to sing, play instruments, compose, perform, listen and appraise music from a wide range of genres, cultures and historical periods.

A few years ago, following recommendations from Barnsley Music Hub, we introduced the Sparkyard music scheme. This has significantly improved the consistency and regularity of music teaching across school. Sparkyard provides clearly structured lessons, supporting videos, musical examples, learning objectives, musical strands and key vocabulary. This enables class teachers and HLTAs to deliver music lessons with greater confidence and ensures that children receive a consistent musical experience throughout their time at Kings Oak School.

Music is taught through weekly lessons, following the progression set out in Sparkyard. The scheme supports the development of knowledge and skills week by week and year by year, ensuring that children build on prior learning and experience a wide range of musical activities. The curriculum includes opportunities to develop singing, listening and appraising, composing, performing and instrumental skills.

Musical vocabulary is introduced and revisited to help children develop their understanding and communicate their musical ideas.

Our progressive approach ensures that musical knowledge and skills are developed over time, rather than simply repeated. The clear structure of Sparkyard helps teachers understand what children have learned previously and what they need to learn next, supporting broad curriculum coverage across all year groups.

Singing is an important part of our music provision. Bi-weekly singing assemblies provide opportunities for children to develop their vocal skills, learn new songs and sing together as a school community. In Key Stage 1, songs are carefully selected and timetabled to link to the musical objectives and strands being taught throughout the year. This reinforces classroom learning and ensures that singing is an integral part of the curriculum.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music and singing are embedded throughout children's learning. Children follow the same progressive approach to music through Sparkyard, with singing, listening, movement and practical musical activities supporting their development. In Nursery, finger rhymes, action songs and rhythmic activities are particularly important in developing gross and fine motor skills, coordination, listening, attention, language and oracy. These activities also support the development of phonological awareness and the listening skills needed for future phonics learning.

Our curriculum is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all pupils, including children with SEND. Music provides practical, structured and collaborative opportunities for children to participate, communicate, express themselves and experience success. Teachers adapt activities and provide appropriate support to meet individual needs without unnecessarily reducing the ambition of the curriculum. We recognise that music can be a particular strength for children who may be less confident in other areas of school life.

We also aim to broaden children's musical understanding through our Artist of the Month initiative. Each month, children are introduced to an artist and their music through a presentation during singing assembly. Artists are selected from a wide range of genres, cultures and historical periods, helping children develop their listening and appraising skills and appreciate music beyond the styles they may encounter in everyday life. The music is then played in classrooms throughout the month, giving children regular opportunities to listen and become familiar with different musical styles and sounds.

Through our curriculum, we aim to ensure that every child develops a secure foundation in music, experiences a broad range of musical styles and traditions, and makes progress in their knowledge, skills and confidence as they move through school.

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.

At Kings Oak School, we recognise the importance of providing opportunities for children to develop their musical interests and talents beyond their weekly classroom music lessons. We aim to make music accessible to all children and provide a range of experiences that encourage participation, build confidence and develop a lifelong appreciation of music.

All Year 3 children receive weekly recorder lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher from Barnsley Music Hub. This whole-class instrumental opportunity ensures that every child can experience learning to play an instrument as part of their primary education. Through these lessons, children develop their instrumental technique, rhythm, listening skills, musical notation and ability to play as part of an ensemble.

The recorder programme culminates in an end-of-year concert at Barnsley Metrodome, where children perform alongside pupils from other schools in front of a large audience, including parents and families. This provides a valuable opportunity for children to celebrate their progress, develop performance confidence and experience the excitement of participating in a larger musical event.

Kings Oak School also offers additional musical opportunities through Rocksteady. Children can opt into instrumental and singing lessons delivered by professional musicians. These sessions enable pupils to develop their musical skills and interests beyond the core curriculum, working collaboratively and learning to perform as part of a group. Termly performances provide opportunities for children to demonstrate their progress to an audience and celebrate their achievements.

We are also renewing our partnership with Barnsley Youth Choir. Professional singers from the choir will deliver workshops for children across the whole school, giving every child the opportunity to experience high-quality vocal tuition and develop their confidence and enjoyment of singing.

Barnsley Youth Choir is an award-winning choir that competes internationally. Working with professional singers will inspire pupils and help them understand the opportunities that can come from developing their musical talents. The workshops will support the development of vocal technique, listening skills, musical expression and ensemble singing. They will also provide an inclusive opportunity for children to participate, express themselves and experience success through music.

We have previously worked with Barnsley Youth Choir through whole-school workshops and the Big Sing. These opportunities have enabled children, including those in Year 4, to experience singing as part of a much larger group. We are delighted to be developing this partnership again to extend professional singing opportunities to all children across school.

Our co-curricular opportunities complement the classroom curriculum by allowing children to apply their musical knowledge and skills in practical settings. We are committed to ensuring that pupils from all backgrounds, including children with SEND and those who may not always feel confident in other areas of school life, are encouraged to participate and experience success.

We will continue to promote existing opportunities to pupils and families and explore further partnerships that enable children to develop their musical interests, access specialist tuition and experience a wider range of instruments and musical styles.

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.

Performance of finished pieces

At Kings Oak School, we recognise the importance of performance as an integral part of musical learning. Children are given opportunities to share what they have learned through classroom activities, singing assemblies, instrumental lessons and wider school performances.

Performing enables pupils to develop confidence, concentration, teamwork and musical expression. It also gives children a sense of achievement and allows them to celebrate their progress with their peers, teachers, parents and the wider school community.

All children participate in school performances throughout the year, ensuring that performance opportunities are inclusive and that every child can contribute to the musical life of the school.

Year 3 recorder concert at Barnsley Metrodome

Year 3 pupils take part in weekly recorder lessons delivered by a specialist music teacher from Barnsley Music Hub. These lessons develop instrumental technique, rhythm, notation, listening and ensemble skills.

At the end of the academic year, pupils participate in a concert at Barnsley Metrodome alongside children from other schools. Parents and families are invited to attend, providing children with the opportunity to perform to a large audience and demonstrate the skills they have developed throughout the year.

This experience celebrates pupils' achievements, develops their confidence as performers and enables them to experience music-making as part of a wider community.

Live music performances from Barnsley Music Hub

Each year, Kings Oak School welcomes musicians from Barnsley Music Hub to perform a live concert for our children. This provides pupils with the opportunity to experience live music in a familiar environment and hear professional musicians perform a range of musical pieces.

These concerts broaden children's musical experiences, develop their listening and appraising skills and help them appreciate different instruments, sounds and styles of music. Having professional musicians perform in school also helps to inspire children and raise aspirations by showing them the range of opportunities available through music.

Rocksteady performances

Children who participate in Rocksteady instrumental and singing lessons have opportunities to perform termly. These performances enable pupils to showcase their learning, develop their confidence and experience playing and singing collaboratively.

They also provide an opportunity to celebrate the commitment and progress of children who choose to pursue additional musical tuition.

Seasonal performances

Christmas performances are an important part of our school calendar. All children participate in performances for parents and peers, providing opportunities to develop singing, musical expression, confidence and teamwork.

These performances bring our school community together and allow children to share their learning in a supportive environment. They also ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience performing to an audience as part of their primary education.

At the end of each academic year, our Year 6 pupils also take part in a leavers' performance. This provides a special opportunity for pupils to showcase their talents, celebrate their time at Kings Oak School and mark their transition to secondary school through a shared musical experience.

Key Stage singing assemblies

Singing assemblies are a key feature of music at Kings Oak School. They provide regular opportunities for children to sing together, develop their vocal skills, learn new repertoire and experience the enjoyment of making music as a community.

In Key Stage 1, songs are linked to the musical objectives and strands being taught throughout the year. This reinforces classroom learning and helps children revisit key musical concepts and vocabulary through singing.

We aim to strengthen this approach in Key Stage 2 by introducing clear annual singing objectives for each year group. This will support progression in vocal technique, pitch, rhythm, diction, breathing, expression and ensemble singing. The repertoire will include songs from a range of genres, cultures and historical periods, complementing the wider music curriculum.

Artist of the Month

Our Artist of the Month initiative helps to broaden children's musical experiences and develop their listening and appraising skills.

Each month, an artist is introduced through a presentation during singing assembly. Children learn about the artist and their music, exploring different genres, historical periods, cultures and musical influences. The selected music is then played in classrooms throughout the month, allowing pupils to revisit the music and become more familiar with its distinctive sounds and characteristics.

This initiative helps children develop their musical vocabulary, broaden their listening experiences and appreciate music beyond the styles they may encounter in their everyday lives. We will continue to develop this provision to ensure a diverse and representative range of artists and musical traditions.

Professional performances and cultural experiences

We believe that experiencing live performance is an important part of children's musical education. Such experiences broaden children's understanding of music and the performing arts and enable them to encounter different styles of performance.

At Christmas, all children have the opportunity to watch a pantomime in school. This introduces children to live performance, music, storytelling and theatrical expression in an accessible and enjoyable way.

Our links with Barnsley Music Hub, Barnsley Youth Choir and Opera North have provided opportunities for children to experience professional musicianship and participate in larger-scale performances. We aim to maintain and develop these links where opportunities are available, ensuring that children continue to experience music beyond the classroom and engage with professional musicians and performers.

In the future

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

At Kings Oak School, we are committed to continually developing our music provision so that all children receive a high-quality, inclusive and progressive musical education. We recognise that the introduction of Sparkyard has strengthened the consistency of music teaching and that we now need to build on these foundations by developing our assessment, monitoring and opportunities for musical progression.

We aim to:

- Strengthen assessment and evidence of progress. We will explore the use of Padlet or another manageable digital platform to collect examples of pupils' musical learning, including photographs, recordings, performances and examples of compositions. This will help the subject leader build a clearer picture of progression across year groups and identify strengths and gaps in curriculum coverage.

- Develop subject leadership and monitoring. We will establish a realistic programme of learning walks, pupil discussions, planning reviews and lesson observations, supported by protected subject leadership time. This will help us evaluate the consistency and quality of music teaching, identify staff training needs and ensure that the Sparkyard curriculum is implemented effectively.

- Develop a progressive Key Stage 2 singing programme. This will ensure that singing assemblies reinforce classroom objectives and that pupils develop their vocal technique, musical understanding and confidence as they progress through school.

- Broaden pupils' experience of live music from different cultures. We aim to invite professional musicians and performers into Kings Oak School to deliver live musical performances representing a range of cultures, traditions and musical styles from around the world. This will give children the opportunity to experience instruments, rhythms and musical traditions that they may not otherwise encounter. Where possible, performances will include opportunities for pupils to ask questions, learn about the instruments being played and participate in practical musical activities.

- Continue to support staff confidence in teaching music. We will provide guidance and professional development where needed, particularly in areas identified through monitoring and staff feedback. This will support teachers and HLTAs in delivering lessons effectively and making the best use of Sparkyard resources.

Through these priorities, we aim to ensure that music at Kings Oak School continues to flourish. Our focus will be on building upon the strong foundations already established, ensuring that every child has access to a progressive curriculum, opportunities to perform, experiences of live music and the chance to develop a lasting appreciation of music.

Further information:

To supplement our offer at school, 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.