

Music development plan summary: Rush Common School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emily Carr and Bethan Lipp
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Leah Kendry
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire County Council Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Abingdon Music Centre Radley College

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.

The Music curriculum for each year group can be found on the school website.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 have a 30 minute Music lesson every week. Children in Key Stage 2 have an hour-long lesson every other week. These lessons include singing, experimenting with sounds, composing, using musical notation and appraising music, as well as learning about a variety of instruments. From September 2024, all children will also take part in a whole-school singing assembly every Monday afternoon to ensure that they are spending an hour a week learning Music.

The music curriculum maps out when children learn to play a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments. This includes learning bucket drumming in Year 2 and recorders as part of WCET (whole class ensemble teaching) in Year 3.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 practise singing as a group during their Nativity performances, while children in Year 6 learn a variety of songs, often with two parts, for their leavers' production. This production also provides children with the opportunity to sing solos and small group songs.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 do 'Wake Up Shake Up' songs first thing in the morning. Children across the school use songs to help with their learning, for example times tables songs in Maths and Mandarin songs during language lessons. The children also listen to calming music during quiet lessons such as Art.

FoRC (Friends of Rush Common) provide all children with the opportunity to watch a pantomime performance with singing in school annually.

The school has a link with Radley College through the Abingdon Partnership: this provides CPD for teachers and support for Music curriculum building, as well as extra-curricular opportunities for children.

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.

Rush Common School offers a wide range of one-to-one and small group music tuition for a wide range of instruments (piano, keyboard, violin, recorder, flute, toot, clarinet, saxophone, drums and guitar). The children who receive these lessons often take exams and receive awards in their chosen instrument, which is celebrated in assemblies. These lessons are advertised through leaflets in the School Office, newsletters and on the school website.

Outside of lesson time, children in Key Stage 2 can also join the choir or the school orchestra. Both of these ensembles perform regularly to the school, to parents and in the wider community. Our orchestra children and others who play a musical instrument join those from many other schools to take part in the Radley College orchestra days. Many of the children who play the recorder and flute also perform as part of the woodwind group.

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.

During the academic year, the children will regularly take part in singing during assembly. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 sing Christmas songs as part of their

Nativity performances. Children in Year 6 also perform to their families as part of their leavers' play. All children are given the opportunity to perform individually at the beginning and end of whole school assemblies, either playing a chosen instrument or singing. Children across the school are also given the opportunity to watch and sing along when the staff orchestra and some of the instrumental teachers play for them at Christmas and often at another point during the academic year.

Children in the school orchestra and choir perform concerts throughout the year to their families and to other members of the local community. Our choir takes part in The Christmas Big Sing, organised by Oxfordshire County Music Service. This gives the choir the opportunity to perform to a large audience and to sing as part of a massed choir. The choir also performs at the SMEG headquarters Christmas party, each December.

There is an annual orchestra performance to parents at school and there is also an annual choir concert for parents in school.

There is an annual woodwind concert for parents in school.

Year 3 take part in The Big Sing, organised by Radley College. This is a singing workshop followed by a massed ensemble choir involving many schools singing together with a conductor.

All children have the opportunity to perform to the school as part of 'Rush Common's Got Talent'.

Children in Year 4 visit the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford along with children from other schools to watch a professional concert performance.

In the future

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

During the academic year 2024-2025, we will be working to ensure that all children receive one hour per week of music lesson time. The current Music lessons will be complemented by weekly singing assemblies which will focus on improving singing confidence, enjoyment and ability as children progress through the school.

We will also be looking at inviting professional musicians and/or students from the secondary schools in our MAT into school to perform for children so that they can experience enjoying music as an audience.

Our aim is to introduce an Easter concert for the whole school, where the staff orchestra play and the children sing along, at the end of Term 2b.

Further information (optional)

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