

# Music development plan summary: Richard Cobden Primary School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Carroll
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Scarlett Cookson
Name of local music hub	Camden Music

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 is focussed on cultivating imagination and creativity and developing our children's musical knowledge, skills and understanding.

Musical learning is built around six main strands, which are interrelated and overlapping. These are:

- singing;
- composing;
- improvising;
- playing;
- critical engagement (listening, appraising, evaluating, describing, identifying, aural perception);
- and social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC)

Our music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) and has been designed by our music lead. The ethos of our school is to ensure that at all times

lessons are made inclusive and accessible to all as set out in our [SEND local offer](#). The school is a fully engaged member of the [London Borough of Camden Music Partnership](#).

### Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Nursery and Reception classes, music is delivered both as an integral part of the EYFS curriculum and also through discreet one hour weekly sessions with a specialist music teacher. Children engage in singing activities and explore musical instruments creatively during music sessions. Songs and nursery rhymes are used throughout the week in other areas of learning and as part of the class routine and children have access to a variety of instruments in the classroom.

### Key Stage 1 and 2

In Key Stage 1 and 2, all classes have a one hour music lesson each week with a specialist music teacher. The children develop their musical skills, knowledge and understanding through the six strands using a variety of instruments and through a wide range of musical genres.

Year 4 and 5 participate in the Whole Class Ensemble Teaching Programme, delivered by a specialist music teacher and a visiting violin tutor from Camden Music. The children have the opportunity to learn to play either the recorder or violin and they perform and compose together as a class group.

For more details on the specific areas covered in each year group, please see the [Whole School Music Overview](#).

### Music assemblies

There are two music assemblies each week, one for Reception and Key Stage 1 and another for Key Stage 2. The assemblies are led by the specialist music teacher and are an opportunity for the children to sing together as a community for enjoyment and to further develop their vocal skills.

### Assessment

Assessment of musical learning is rooted in the reality of musical activity that the children undertake. Consequently, assessment is of the musical attainment they have evidenced in a range of learning activities in which they have been singing, playing, performing, composing, and listening (critical engagement and SMSC are assessed within these areas).

Throughout all lessons during each unit of work, the teacher will assess (formatively) children's musical learning through a variety of means including listening to and observing children talking about music, making music, exploring music, responding to music, and, at Key Stage 2, using staff and other notations if appropriate. Children are given appropriate developmental feedback within lessons to help them to succeed at a level appropriate to them.

The main musical outcome (e.g. performance or composition) of each unit of work is assessed (summatively) using a three-point scale based on 'not yet able to', 'able to' and 'confidently able to'. Evidence from a series of assessments are used holistically over time to build-up a portfolio of assessment data which demonstrates progression and informs teaching and learning. Progress is reported to parents/guardians annually via the school reporting system.

Lessons and units of work are appropriately differentiated and specifically targeting learning is essential for everyone to feel successful and appropriately challenged, and assessments will reflect this.

## **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.

The school choir rehearses weekly and membership is open to all children in Key Stage 2. They perform regularly at events such as the Winter Fair, end of term assemblies, busking at Euston Station and for staff at Camden Council Headquarters. The choir also participate annually alongside other borough schools in music festivals, including the Camden Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall and the Camden Primary Choirs Festival.

Children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to learn the piano or violin with visiting instrumental tutors from Camden Music. Children can have weekly individual or group tuition and instruments are available to borrow or hire. Lessons are heavily subsidised for low income families and some of our children have been awarded Camden Music Trust scholarships to fund lessons and extra-curricular activities at the Camden Saturday Music Centre.

We collaborate with Camden Music to offer other extra-curricular opportunities for children. We are hosting Camden Music drumming tutors to run an after school djembe programme in the school. Children in Year 4 and 5 are invited to join the Somers Town Sinfonia during the summer term, rehearsing and performing weekly after-school in an orchestra with children from other local schools and alongside professional musicians. We also encourage children to access the Camden Music Saturday Centres and holiday courses on completion of the WCET Programme.

## **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.

All children take part in musical shows (including the Winter show and Year 6 show) during their time at Richard Cobden. Each child also performs annually in their class assembly for friends and family, singing songs related to their topic learning. Year 4 and 5 and those children having instrumental tuition perform on the violin, recorder and piano in regular music concerts. Children in other year groups also present a music performance for friends and family at least once during the academic year, showcasing their learning outcomes.

There are several opportunities during the academic year for the children to perform with children from other schools in the borough at various venues. For example, the children involved in WCET participate in the Camden Music Ceilidh and the Year 3 children participate in the Camden Music Cluster Festival.

Children at Richard Cobden enjoy visits to concert halls and other arts venues to experience live music performances by professional ensembles (including the London Symphony Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and The Aurora Orchestra).

There are opportunities for the children to experience chamber music performances by professional musicians in the school setting and we work with arts organisations such as The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Musicians' Company and the Royal Academy of Music to provide workshops and performances with professional players and composers. We also regularly work with arts organisations on other projects to enrich the classroom experience, such as technology workshops with the Camden CLC and the social enterprise Be the Band.

## In the future

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

We have increased performance opportunities in school for our children within the past year, in particular with more concerts and music assemblies for family and friends. We aim to continue to maintain and increase these performance opportunities in the coming year.

While children do have opportunities to listen to live music outside of the school setting, we aim to make these opportunities more consistent and regular and ensure that every children is able to visit a music venue to listen to live music at least once during the academic year.

## Further information

We are a [Camden Music](#) partner. Camden Music is a consortium partner of the [North London Music Hub](#).

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how to get involved in music in and out of school, and where to go to for support beyond the school.