

Music development plan summary: *Marlow Church of England Infant School*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	December 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Downing
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

A Music Development plan is a document that is suggested by the National Plan for Music Education (2022) as a means to articulate a school's plans for delivering high quality music provision.

Music Development Plans are also expected to show parents and children what they can expect from music education and capture the curricular and co-curricular offer and set out how it will be staffed.

At Marlow C of E Infant School we believe that music is fundamental to humanity and especially our local community. Every child deserves the opportunity to engage with all styles of music and cultures in order to shape their own musical journey.

Our music curriculum aims to provide all pupils with a high-quality music education which engages and inspires children to develop a life-long love of music; increasing self-confidence, teamwork, musicianship and overall a sense of personal achievement. Through our music curriculum all children develop their talents in all aspects of music including composition, listening, singing and performing.

In line with the national curriculum. Over a variety of topics in music lesson and across the wider school experience, the children are taught and exposed to:

- Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes

- Play tuned and untuned percussion
- Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Music at Marlow C of E Infant School is fully inclusive and all children participate in all activities and lessons. The children are surrounded by music and song across the school day and music is taught across the school using the Kapow teaching platform by class teachers. Children in Reception are taught music every week throughout the year from the Autumn 2 half term for 45 minutes. In Key Stage 1 children are taught music once every half term starting in the Autumn 2 half term for 1 hour.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Marlow C of E Infant School all the children have the opportunity to develop musical skills throughout the year, outside of their formal music lessons. Through this they further develop their appreciation and enjoyment of a range of music.

Every week the children take part in a whole school hymn practice which is led by the music subject lead every week. Across the year there are planned visits from Nick Collard from All Saints Church to visit and sing and learn new songs with him and his guitar. In addition to this, the children will sing in all whole school worships and 1 additional song practice in the lead up to our nativity performances; these happen with the class teacher. Children in Key Stage 1 explore music and performance further in their dance lessons; they will explore a topic dance (Year 1 Javanese Dance and Year 2 Oceans dance) learning to appreciate a different style of music and movement. They will also explore moving, rhythm and performance in their curriculum dance lessons.

Throughout the year there are regular opportunities to sing and perform in our harvest festival, advent service at church, nativity performances, Easter services at church and end of year service. Entrance music for school worships is an opportunity to expose the children to another range of high-quality recorded music.

In Reception the children regularly have music playing in play learning and they have access to a range of instruments and a stage for them to explore music and perform. In Key Stage 1 children are able to join a singing group to develop their love of performing and singing. Children from local secondary schools come to perform for our children and share their talents.

Our children love their singing and visitors to the school and performances are amazed at the talents and confidence they have with their music.

Part C: Musical experiences

In addition to our weekly hymn practices, worships, nativities and school performances each year the children have a range of planned musical activities that either relate to their topic or relate to a whole school activity.

Not only do Reception children have the opportunity to explore music in their play learning, but they have an annual visit from an African drumming teacher during their Africa topic in the summer term. During the first term the Reception children begin to develop their performance skills in a different setting by singing to the local U3A group in a local hall near school.

In Year 1, the children study Indonesia and within this topic the children learn to play Gamalan instruments and make shadow puppets. This all culminates in a performance to parents at the end of the topic.

In Year 2 the children visit our local junior feeder school to watch a range of performances to develop their musical and performance awareness.

All children have the opportunity to sing in the local 'Love Marlow' performance with 10 other local primary schools. During this rehearsal and performance process the children are not only taught by the music lead but have the opportunity to rehearse and sing with local musician and composer Sheila Wilson.

Every year as a whole school we take part in Praise in the Park with local Church schools. This performance highlights not only the children's growing performance skills but their ability practice and work together.

In the future

To further enrich the children's musical experience at Marlow C of E Infant School we intend to:

- Maintain our Gold Artsmark status (awarded 2025) ensuring the rich cultural environment continues to support the children's love of music and the arts.
- Develop stronger links with Berkshire Music Trust and investigate what they can offer to enrich the children's musical development.