

Music development plan summary: Didcot Primary Academy

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Scrivener
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady

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 Didcot Primary Academy music is taught weekly to all classes, with most being led by a specialist music teacher. Children are taught music in 45 minute lessons. In addition to class lessons there is a weekly singing assembly for KS2 and opportunities for whole school singing in weekly assemblies. Children listen to a wide range of musical styles, both during class lessons and during assemblies. Assembly sing and listening is planned carefully to ensure breadth of listening and, when relevant, links are made with key themes and significant days/events.

Year 3 children learn to play the violin or 'cello as part of the whole class ensemble teaching programme, this is led by our own music specialist, who works closely with Oxfordshire County Music Service. Instruments are loaned to us by the music service. In Year 5 children are taught ukulele for the year from a specialist music teacher provided by Oxfordshire County Music Service, building on their whole class ensemble teaching from Year 3.

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 our school children are offered a wide range of instrumental lessons, beyond the classroom:

Guitar, piano, violin, 'cello, flute, clarinet, bassoon and rock band (guitar, bass, drums, keyboard and voice) are offered by peripatetic teachers. Oxfordshire County Music Service has subsidies for families in receipt of certain benefits. Rock Steady, our band lesson providers offer a place without charge to a child nominated by the school. Recorder lessons are taught as a lunchtime club by the school music specialist, there is no charge beyond purchasing a recorder.

At Didcot Primary Academy we have a thriving school choir for KS2 with a regular attendance of over 80 children. Children do not need to audition to attend, they just need to enjoy singing. The choir regularly sing at school concerts, local retirement homes, at local music festivals and annually as part of Young Voices at the O2 in London. There is no charge for choir sessions in school.

With our increasing number of children receiving instrumental tuition, both with the music service and privately, we have established a school orchestra. Music is arranged to cater for the varying standards of the students and the aim is to give the young musicians an opportunity to experience being part of an ensemble of various instruments. This is often the first time the children find themselves playing different parts of music. There is no charge for our after school orchestra sessions.

Through the peripatetic music teachers children are offered the opportunity to take music exams and, when ready, to join the local Saturday morning music school. Peripatetic teachers will also promote weekend workshops at the Centre for Music in Oxford.

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.

Throughout the year the children at Didcot primary School have multiple opportunities to perform and listen to live music.

Autumn Term:

- Reception and Year 1 – Harvest Singing Assembly to parents/carers
- Nursery – Christmas Singing to parents/carers
- Reception – Nativity play to parents/carers
- Year 1- Christmas songs sung during Christmas decoration workshop for parents/carers
- Year 2 – Christmas musical for parents/carers
- KS2 – Christmas Concert to parents/carers (everyone participates)
- Choir - sing at the PTA Christmas Fair

Spring Term

- Choir – Young Voices concert at the O2 in London, singing as a massed choir of 8,000
- Choir - Didcot Schools Music Festival
- Spring Concert – A platform for instrumentalists and instrumental groups to perform to parents/carers, along with the choir

Summer Term

- Choir – Dorchester Festival of Voices, massed choir event set in a beautiful abbey and led by a professional band and conductor.
- Choir – Sing at the PTA Summer Fair
- KS2 Summer Concert – A concert with full participation and a platform for musical groups and soloists.
- Year 6 – End of year musical
- Year 4 – Royal Opera House ‘Create Day’ A series of six lessons that culminate in a whole day off timetable and live stream lessons and performance with ROH

Throughout the year peripatetic teachers perform for the children, to promote their instruments and to enhance live music opportunities. The school music specialist frequently plays for the children and recently performed for the children with her trio. This is expected to become a regular feature of the school musical calendar. Students are also encouraged to perform during our Friday whole school assemblies.

Many of our musical activities do not have a charge, when they do we make every effort to keep costs to a minimum. Choir T-shirts are loaned to all participants for performances and we encourage parents and carers to discuss any financial needs with the school when payments are required.

In the future

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

We offer a very rich music curriculum which covers all 7 areas. We will continue to develop this within the school and to support our other trust schools. We have also been successful in a bid to work with Ex-Cathedra vocalists to bring singing to the playground.