

# Music development plan summary: Didcot Primary Academy

## Overview

| Detail                                                                             | Information           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                             | 2026-27               |
| Date this summary was published                                                    | July 2025             |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                                 | July 2026             |
| Name of the school music lead                                                      | Cara Sullivan         |
| 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 the school music lead. 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 singing 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 Djembe drums as part of the whole class ensemble teaching programme and Year 5 children are taught ukulele, these are both taught by specialist music teachers provided by Oxfordshire County Music Service.

## 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.

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 sings 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.

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:

- 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
- Spring Concert – A platform for instrumentalists and instrumental groups to perform to parents/carers, along with the choir

#### Summer Term

- 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

Throughout the year peripatetic teachers perform for the children, to promote their instruments and to enhance live music opportunities. 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.