



The Mildmay
Primary School

Music
Development
Plan

2026-27

“Growing, caring and learning together; meeting challenges, making the most of opportunities and enjoying the journey”.

Intent

Our school motto (above) underpins everything we do. Our teaching and learning, provides an environment which prepares all pupils to be inquisitive, creative, and enquiring learners within their learning. We aim to nurture a culture of wellbeing and self-belief by providing an aspirational and adaptive learning environment both in and outside the classroom. The aim of our provision is to encourage and foster a love for learning and learning for life.

The intention of the music curriculum at Mildmay Primary is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. In alignment with our school’s visions and values, music can support children’s self-belief, provide numerous opportunities, as well as bringing together the community. Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership, creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, and presentation and performance skills.

Aims

Mildmay Primary School’s music curriculum provides:

- Opportunities to develop and embed basic skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to become confident performers, composers, and listeners (*see progression of knowledge*). Knowledge and vocabulary being at the heart of pupils learning.
- Opportunities for a range of spiritual, moral, social, and cultural experiences. This includes music from all around the world and across generations, learning to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.
- A curriculum that develops musical skills of singing, playing tuned & untuned instruments, improvising & composing music and the ability to listen & respond to music.
- A curriculum that develops an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that children listen to and learn how music can be written down.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	2 nd September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	17 th July 2027
Name of the school music leads	Lin Balcombe & Georgia Willis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sophie Pooler (DHT/Curriculum Lead)
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Organisation

Kapow is the scheme of work teachers use for providing a high-quality music curriculum to all our pupils. Each half term has a different topic allocated and can be found in the year group overview as well as in this progression document.

Implementation

Music is taught every half term with 45 minute lessons (for all year groups) on a weekly basis using Kapow primary's music scheme. This takes a holistic approach to music, in which the individual strands below are woven together to create engaging and enriching learning experiences:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The History of Music
- The Inter-related Dimensions of Music

Each five or six-lesson unit combines these strands within a cross-curricular topic designed to capture pupils' imagination and encourage them to explore music enthusiastically. Over the course of the scheme, children will be taught how to sing fluently and expressively and play tuned and untuned instruments accurately and with control. They will learn to recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music - pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, structure, texture, and dynamics - and use these expressively in their own improvisations and compositions.

There are also opportunities for all our pupils to learn to play instruments as part of a group. Each unit includes opportunities to learn and perform music on glockenspiels. The instrumental scheme lessons complement the Kapow Primary scheme of work and allow lower key stage pupils to develop their expertise in using a tuned instrument for a minimum of one term as recommended in the Model Music Curriculum. These are taught as whole class ensemble teaching.

The teaching of Music is well-balanced within our progressive and exciting curriculum. In each lesson, pupils will actively participate in musical activities drawn from a range of styles and traditions, developing their musical skills and their understanding of how music works. Lessons incorporate a range of teaching strategies from independent tasks, paired and group work as well as improvisation and teacher-led performances. Music lessons are 'hands-on' and incorporate movement and dance elements, as well as making cross curricular links with other areas of learning. A real strength of following the KAPOW curriculum is that high-quality guidance is available for every lesson to ensure that lessons can be accessed by all pupils and opportunities to stretch pupils' learning are available when required. Knowledge organisers for each unit support pupils in building a foundation of factual knowledge by encouraging recall of key facts and vocabulary. We believe our staff need to be equipped and given the time to strengthen their musical subject knowledge for them to be able to deliver a highly effective and robust music curriculum. In addition to this, each unit of lessons includes multiple teacher videos to develop subject knowledge and support ongoing CPD, aiding teachers in their own acquisition of musical skills and knowledge. Further CPD opportunities can also be found via webinars with our music subject specialists.

SEN Provision and Adapted Learning

To support children with low level, SEND needs in music we encourage flexible groupings and peer support in lessons. Children with high needs are supported to take part in whole class lessons with additional adult support.

SEND children are also encouraged to take lessons with peripatetic music teachers. They are encouraged to move with the music to express themselves through their bodies. They are encouraged to listen to music and engage in extra musical activities to aid them to relax. We use age-appropriate material and facilitate learning the lyrics or reading notation. To support children with physical or sensory needs, headphones are provided. Adult support is used to facilitate participation.

Specific ways where the teaching of Music is adapted to suit the needs of all learners and to promote an inclusive classroom environment are:

- Access to instruments throughout for regular movement breaks and opportunities to be active within the lesson.
- Teachers bespoke the context of their lessons, where appropriate, to follow the interest of specific pupils.
- The classroom environment is considered in terms of organisation of the physical space as well as utilising outside areas to lessen sensory overload.
- Music is embedded within the weekly timetable which remains the same each week. This supports pupils who need that regular routine and structure.

Part B: Extra-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.

Outside of lesson time, private music tuition is provided by specialist music teachers. These are 1:1 sessions with the occasional small group tuition where pupils are working on a group performance. All lessons take place in a dedicated music space. These pupils have further opportunities to take grades in Piano, clarinet, recorder, saxophone or Guitar. This tuition comes with a termly charge, which parents pay straight to the teacher.

Rock Steady run sessions in school where children can learn guitar, bass guitar, keyboards, drumming and vocals. They have the opportunity once per term to perform in front of their peers. These are paid for sessions with some free places available for targeted FSM eligible children.

There is a school Sing and Sign choir who meet on a weekly basis. The choir have multiple opportunities to perform throughout the academic year. The events they have most recently performed in are as follows:

- Annual Christmas Event at John Lewis - the choir perform in the shopping centre.
- Chelmsford Junior Music Festival - a music concert in the summer term, performed with other local primary schools at the Chelmsford Theatre.
- Singing at the local church for outreach groups.

Great Baddow High School run a competition for children of all levels to perform their choice of music, either singing or instrumental. This is held on a Saturday and children who are interested can attend this.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Mildmay provides further musical experiences throughout the year for pupils to be a part of, in addition to the ones stated above in Part B.

- Our annual *Mildmay's Got Talent* competition allows children in KS2 to sing or perform their own choice of music.
- Local high schools invite our children to watch their production dress rehearsals.
- Recently, Great Baddow High School started a Christmas Carol event where children are invited to join them in singing carols and watch the high school students perform.
- At the end of every year is the Year 6 Production, where pupils are given opportunities to sing as a class, in a group or as soloists.
- There is an annual music day run by the trust, hosted at Mildmay Primary, where workshops are run for identified children who have shown an aptitude for music.

In the future:

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

In terms of forward planning to further improve our current Music Curriculum offer, we aim to consider the following points to advance the provision:

- To continue embedding the teaching of music, of at least 45 minutes each week of the school year for key stages 1 and 2.
- To continue to have a dedicated music space for private tuition.
- Updating and replenishing our instrument resources to ensure high-quality, whole-class instrument lessons continue.
- To provide further opportunities for the school choir to perform in our community and beyond.
- To plan an opportunity for pupils to enjoy a live performance at least once a year. This could be visiting Chelmsford Cathedral on a Friday lunchtime to listen to live performances.