



Music Development Plan, 2024-27: Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School

Overview

Music has the power to ignite self-expression and develop confidence in all pupils. At Ridgeway Education Trust (RET), we recognise this by prioritising a high-quality, inclusive music curriculum and well-planned, wide-ranging extra-curricular opportunities in Primary Schools. This ensures that every learner, regardless of background or ability, has the opportunity to experience the joy and empowerment that music brings. The range of musical experiences – including accessible instrumental and vocal tuition - breaks down barriers, allowing all students to create and enjoy music together. This results in a well-rounded high-quality musical experience for all in our primary schools.

RET Primary Schools aim to provide all pupils with access to high-quality musical learning through.

- Access to a high-quality music curriculum
- Inclusive, well-planned extra-curricular provision
- Opportunities for instrumental/vocal lessons for primary-aged pupils

Detail	Information
Publication Date	September 2024
Review Date	September 2025 2026 2027
Music Subject Lead	Sarah Tester
RET Primary Music Lead	Kat Melidis
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire Music Service

A. The Music Curriculum

At Sutton Courtenay we believe that music is a fundamental human experience which crosses cultural divides. It plays a vital role developing spirituality, creativity and communication skills. It also enables children to participate in shared social experiences, which build cultural capital.

Music is a language and is the core of music lessons throughout Ridgeway Education Trust. The Music curriculum is built upon acquiring a deep knowledge of musical language and applying it as practical music-making, analysing and evaluating. In Music, skill is the application of knowledge and is improved through effective practice. Children gain knowledge through interactions with teachers and their peers, and then practise and demonstrate this through performing and analysing in small groups or individually. Through all the key stages, children will learn to talk musically about music, demonstrate their knowledge of music through applied practical tasks in the form of performing and assess the quality and effectiveness of music from a range of contexts.

The language of music involves performing musically, describing music using key vocabulary, creating new music and discussing the effectiveness of music. The Key Stages each build on the musical knowledge and skill acquired from the previous key stage, developing a strong foundation for all children. At each key stage, children will have the opportunity to explore instrumental knowledge and skills to readdress inequality; children who do not have access to



instrumental lessons due to financial constraints will have the opportunity to learn the basics of instrumental skills and, more importantly, learn how to learn on their own so they can continue to learn outside of the classroom.

Sing Up Music: We use the high-quality published scheme Sing Up as the basis for our planning. Sing Up has been carefully chosen as it provides our school with the foundation to deliver a creative programme of high-quality classroom music activity. It sets out the skills, knowledge, and understanding to be gained by all pupils at each stage of learning, including the Early Years Foundation Stage. Sing Up’s music curriculum, with a scheme of work for each year group from Nursery to Year 6, represents a progressive set of teaching resources that meets the requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (Expressive Arts), the National Curriculum for Music and suggested approaches of the Model Music Curriculum (Singing, Listening, Composing, Performance/Instrumental Performance). Covering a broad and diverse range of repertoire, approaches, and musical traditions, Sing Up Music supports a fully-integrated approach to musical development, connecting seven interrelated strands: singing, practise, performing, composing, improvising, listening, appraising.

Please see our curriculum intent overview: [2025-26 Sing Up Music Curriculum Intent](#)

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Actions: To improve the Music curriculum further, actions planned for 2024-25 **2025-26** **2026-27** are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
Offer CPD training to staff as required to build subject knowledge/keyboard skills at KS2 and Glockenspiel at KS1.	Staff will feel more confident to deliver the curriculum and will be more successful at embedding a strong music culture in the school. Term 1 2025 Year 5 + 6 CPD to support implementing the Sing Up Curriculum Term 2 2025 Year 3 + 4 CPD support implementing the Sing Up Curriculum Term 3 2026 Year 1+2 CPD support implementing the Sing Up Curriculum	ST/ KLM
In light of this CPD, update Curriculum Intent, including long-term curriculum plans	There is a clear, updated plan of the content and progression of music skills across the school Curriculum Intent updated for 2025-26 in light of CPD support from RET PML	ST/ KLM
Provide further CPD Material to support Staff Development outside of lessons	Staff will feel more confident in their own subject knowledge and understanding of how to teach the Sing Up Music curriculum and will be more successful at embedding a strong music culture in the school. Further CPD training resources are made available to staff	KLM

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B. Extra-curricular Music

For **2025-26**, the following music tuition is available at Sutton Courtenay CofE Primary School:

- **Choir** open to pupils in 4-6 year groups meets Thursdays 3.15pm-4pm. This is led by Sarah Tester.
- **Instrumental lessons** are also available in Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Oboe, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Keyboard, Voice, Trumpet, Cornet, Euphonium, Baritone, Tenor Horn, French Horn, Tuba through a range of providers including Oxfordshire County Music Service, Private Teachers, and iRock.



For more information about assistance which may be available to cover the cost of instrumental tuition, please see our Charging and Remissions Policy: [link](#). Oxfordshire County Music Service also offer discounts and subsidies for children where parents are in receipt of specific benefits; for more information click here: [Subsidies and discounts Oxfordshire Music Service](#)

Actions: To improve our extra-curricular music offer further, actions planned for **2025-26** are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
Audit equity of access	<p>To monitor access, ensuring that all learners who are interested are able to access learning a musical instrument, with a particular focus on disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.</p> <p>14 % of pupils currently accessing music lessons in school 12 % of pupils currently accessing music lessons in school are PP 27 % of pupils currently accessing music lessons in school are SEND</p> <p>Raise music profile with parents and pupils alike through assemblies, newsletters whereby pupils can listen to peers/secondary school pupils and meet teachers (where possible) to build connections and belonging fostering a culture of music making in the trust primary school. Make financing options clear and available to parents and identify any barriers to accessing learning.</p>	KLM

C. Musical Experiences

At Sutton Courtenay we believe participation in musical experiences develops not only musical skill and a love of music, but also supports pupils to develop confidence and the ability to work closely with others.

Musical experiences on offer in **2025-26**

Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils sing a range of hymns during whole-school worship. Once a week, pupils practise their skills and learn new songs during singing assembly. All pupils sing a range of hymns during the church services or assemblies which take place during key events during the year, for example Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils in Key Stage One (Y1 and 2) learn and perform songs as part of our annual nativity production for parents and carers in December. In Y3 and 4, pupils learn songs for our Easter performance, again shared with a large audience. In Y6, pupils learn songs for our summer performance, again shared with a large audience. Children taking part in irock perform to the whole school. Children learning instruments are encouraged to perform during assembly once a term or play as children are arriving for assembly. The school choir performs at the Milton Park Christmas Market. In December 2025 a recording of KS2 singing 'All the Angels Sing' was played on BBC Radio Oxford.
Concerts and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Voices (every other year, last done 2023-2024 school year), Festival of Voices, Didcot Partnership event, visits to concerts, RET orchestral concert and workshops.

Actions: To improve our extra-curricular music offer further, actions planned for **2025-26** are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
Actively seek new opportunities	To broaden the opportunities currently available to students.	KLM / ST



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	Year 4 to attend the RET Introduction to the Orchestra concert March 2026. The school choir to perform at Milton Park Christmas Market.	
Review performance opportunities	Increasing the performance opportunities throughout the year to build on the culture of music making in school. Such as performing music learnt in class music lessons in Celebration Assemblies on a Friday afternoon.	KLM /ST

Further information

External Music groups/organisations:

<https://www.matrixartscentre.org.uk/>

[Home | Wantage Silver Band | Community Music Making \(wantageband.org\)](#)

[ABINGDON MUSIC CENTRE – Music for Everyone](#)

[Dance & Drama Lessons for kids - Singing & Acting Classes \(stagecoach.co.uk\)](#)

Instrumental Loans/ Purchase help:

[Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme \(AIPS\) | Music Mark](#)

[Hiring instruments | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

[Buying instruments | Oxfordshire County Council](#)