

Music development plan summary: Alvanley and Manley Village School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rae Molyneux
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Cheshire West
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for Life AmaSing

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.

Alvanley and Manley Village School has a thorough and fully National Curriculum compliant Music offer for Reception through to Year 6. We use the Kapow Primary Music Scheme across the school. The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence

- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

The intention is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. Each class teacher uses the scheme and adapts it to ensure every child can access and enjoy music within our school. Sequencing and progression are clear.

We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

Kapow Primary's Music scheme which has been designed as a spiral curriculum with the following key principles in mind:

- Cyclical: Pupils return to the same skills and knowledge again and again during their time in primary school.
- Increasing depth: Each time a skill or area of knowledge is revisited it, is covered with greater depth.
- Prior knowledge: Upon returning to a skill, prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.

Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Pupils are taught musical notation and how to compose music.

Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

As children progress through the school, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions.

We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together. We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds.

Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and

presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

Implementation

In accordance with the National Curriculum, we ensure that coverage of knowledge and skills is developed sequentially throughout the school. We have adopted the Kapow Scheme, to ensure that children receive quality music lessons throughout the year – we cover one unit per half-term. Music is taught as a discrete lesson usually lasting 45mins. Our lessons are taught with a combination of weekly sessions and focus days.

We take 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 unit combines these strands within a cross-curricular topic designed to capture pupils' imagination and encourage them to explore music enthusiastically.

Kapow provides a classroom-based, participatory and inclusive approach to music learning. Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole-body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments effectively to create and express their own and others' music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

During music lessons, children are given opportunities to learn music-specific vocabulary in a meaningful context. The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children are able to use the language of music to discuss it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. 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.

The children are given opportunities to apply their skills and given a chance for collaboration through composition.

SEND

We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express

themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Additionally, for children wishing to pursue music further, we partner with Music For Life, who offer peripatetic music tuition for a wide variety of instruments within school. Where appropriate, school will support families financially with this.

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.

Outside of the curriculum, children are welcome to experience and engage with Music in varied after school clubs. These include music focused clubs such as choir and recorder club. In order to encourage as many children as possible to take part, we offer membership of the school choir club at no cost. Through our partners at Music For Life, we support children's music tuition in specific instruments through a paid service. However, as detailed above, school can support families financially to undertake this where certain criteria are met. The instruments offered are wide ranging and include guitar, violin, piano, flute and mandolin. Where children wish to learn a different instrument simply have to make a request, and school and partners will look to source the available tutor to facilitate this. Charges for music session are handled by Music For Life, and school considers financial support for such sessions on a case by case basis for those children entitled to pupil premium

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.

We have a number of musical experiences arranged for the year. This is performing with AmaSing community group and local schools in a stadium, performing with our cluster schools at Christmas in a cathedral. In addition to this, school also arranges events such as the infant nativity and KS2 end of year show. These events see the children rehearsing performances as soloists, small group and large group ensembles; performing to parents in and out of school. Nativity tickets are free of charge for all who wish to attend, with a small ticket fee being applied for the summer music concert. Funds raised are reinvested into school resources such as for instruments. We collaborate with the Highfield Choir to perform at our local church for a Christmas carol

concert. We run a Festival of the Arts where children can learn drumming, dancing and play as part of a concert band using a range of brass instruments.

In the future

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

Over the coming years we are committed to continually improving the music offer we make to the pupils of Alvanley and Manly Village School. We will continue to deliver the regular music curriculum, but wish to upskill our staff through high quality CPD within Music. We aim to increase the number of children able to undertake instrument tuition year on year, by offering infant children Music for Life lessons and a whole class block of music tuition within school and are formulating plans on how to do this. Additionally, we will be looking to increase the number of clubs which incorporate music and will also be looking to source more opportunities for children to see live performances – either in school or outside throughout the coming academic years.