# Music development plan summary: Darrick Wood Infant and Nursery School

## Overview

| Detail | Information |
|---|---|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2026-2027 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2026 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2027 |
| Name of the school music lead | Vivienne Udo |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Lydia Crawford |
| Name of local music hub | BYMT |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Kapow Music Curriculum |

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.

## Objective of the Plan

A Music Development Plan is a document that is suggested by the National Plan for Music Education (2022) as a means to articulate [a school's] plan for delivering high-quality music education and supporting pupils to progress. The MDPs are also expected to show parents and children what they can expect from music education and capture the curricular and co-curricular offer and set out how it will be staffed and funded.

With these goals in mind, the Music Development Plan for Darrick Wood Infants sets out firstly what our strategy in Music is in our school via the intent, implementation, impact model. This is followed by an overview of the curricular and co-curricular offer, which details how this strategy is put in place for all pupils in our school.

The actions for further development are identified, along with evaluation points for the future: this is a living document which will be updated and amended in order to be a continual review of the music education at Darrick Wood, allowing us to monitor, evaluate and improve existing provision.

## Intent, Implementation and Impact

Music is fundamental to our humanity and civilization. Every child deserves the opportunity to engage with music of all styles and from all cultures, in order to develop their own musical journey.

Our music curriculum aims to provide all pupils with a high-quality music education which engages and inspires children to develop a life-long love of music, increases their self-confidence, creativity, and imagination, and provides opportunities for self-expression and a sense of personal achievement. We offer opportunities for children to develop their talents in all aspects of music including composition, singing and appreciation. Children will perform, listen and analyse critically, sing, improvise and compose music and understand the musical elements as building blocks within music.

The curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- Be taught to sing, create and compose music
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

In line with the National Curriculum for Music, children will develop an ability to listen to, and appreciate a wide variety of music, including different styles, periods and cultures. They will have opportunities to explore and express ideas and feelings about music, in a variety of ways, for example through dance. Children will explore a range of musical elements, for example: pitch, tempo and dynamics. Children will develop a sense of group identity and togetherness through composing, rehearsing and performing music with others, to an audience. Outside of the curriculum, there are opportunities for children to perform musically.

Children at Darrick Wood will engage in a rich music curriculum and their skills and knowledge will be nurtured to ensure that progress is not only made but maintained and built upon continually. Children will experience and enjoy a wealth of music in a number of ways during their time at our school and this, combined with the rigour of our academic programme, will equip them to explore this wonderful, vital and unique subject in their own way.

## 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 Darrick Wood, we are on a journey to improve our Music offer beyond the statutory Music curriculum. We want children to feel that they are musical and to develop a life-long love of music. From Early Years to KS1, our Kapow Primary Music Scheme focuses on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need in order to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. Our curriculum

introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities. Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music. They will develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and learn how music can be written down. 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.

Music is timetabled for 40 minutes a week across key stage 1. In Early Years, children have weekly Music lessons as well as access to instruments within the continuous provision.

We have weekly singing assemblies, thus providing one hour per week of music learning for each child as a minimum.

We have full membership with BYMT who are helping us to enhance our Music provision through subject leadership support, whole class teaching of a musical instrument, musical instrument demonstrations and opportunities to perform at the Infant School Festival.

| **Year Group** | Music session | **Additional Singing** | **Additional Music Activity** | **Productions and Celebrations** |
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| **EYFS** | 30 mins. per week<br><br>Kapow scheme basis (Rec) | 20 mins. per week<br><br>Songs based on calendar/ PSHE/ school events and musical capabilities | African djembe drumming workshop | Nursery Nativity<br>Reception Nativity<br>Nursery Sing-along with families. |
| **Year 1** | 40 mins. per week Kapow scheme basis | 20 mins. per week<br><br>Songs based on calendar/ PSHE/ school events and musical capabilities | Whole class instrument tuition of flutes. | Year 1 Nativity |
| **Year 2** | 40 mins. per week Kapow scheme basis | 20 mins. per week<br><br>Songs based on calendar/ PSHE/ school events and musical capabilities | Whole class instrument tuition of hand chimes. | Year 2 Nativity<br><br>Year 2 Leavers Show |

Our Music Curriculum is derived from Kapow Primary Music, which provides the resources for our scheme. While detailed planning can only be accessed via logging in to Kapow, the progression map demonstrates how the interrelated dimensions of music are taught and built upon as children move through the school. Children are not only taught about the interrelated dimensions of music but they also receive and take-part in a wide range of musical experiences.

**This Kapow Primary Music Scheme of Work is built on the following principles:**

- Children will develop their skills in inquiry and critical thinking.
- Children will begin to feel and learn about social connectivity.
- Children will learn about and deepen their musical understanding and connect this with their place in their community.
- Children will become globally aware and understand what it means to become a citizen of the world.
- Songs and singing lie at the heart of the learning process.
- An authentic musical experience is at the heart of musical learning.
- At each age and stage of development, musical learning is drawn from engaging with the songs in each unit.
- The scheme is fun, modern, inclusive and engaging.
- The scheme is flexible and can be used as a structured approach to music teaching or can be turned into a customised model for an individual school or class.
- The scheme will help children to understand and connect with different styles of music from various cultures, particularly where cultures intersect.
- Children will gain an understanding of historical and cultural contexts related to music. Children will form their own musical opinions and learn to make their own musical decisions.

**How do Music skills and knowledge develop using Kapow Primary?**

Kapow Primary documents clearly show the development of Music knowledge across all year groups, ensuring a clear pathway for pupil learning. Progression is broken down into the following key areas:

- **Listening and evaluating** – expressing musical preferences; exploring the impact of musical ideas; understanding how effects are created by combining musical elements.
- **Creating sound** – exploring the children's vocal skills; developing skills to manipulate sounds on a range of instruments.
- **Notation** – recognising the basics of musical notation; reading simple rhythmic patterns; developing the foundational knowledge of how staff and graphic notations can communicate music.

- **Improvising and composing** – creating and refining the children's own music through improvisation and notation; experimenting with styles and features; employing musical concepts to add interest.
- **Performing** – using voices expressively; developing instrumental control and expression; performing as part of a group.

## 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.

Unlike our curriculum overview, our co-curricular music offer are not prescribed, mandated sessions that all children take part in. Instead they are opportunities for children to develop their love of music, and children enter them voluntarily.

We have a visiting violin teacher who delivers 1-1 tuition for our children in Key Stage One who works for BYMT.

We have weekly whole school singing assemblies.

Rock Steady offer fun and inclusive in-school rock and pop band weekly lessons, for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. They are a band-based peripatetic music service delivered by professionals. They give regular performances throughout the year.

Choir group performs at BYMT Infant Song Festival.

## 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.

At Darrick Wood Infants, we have weekly singing assemblies which cover a range of musical genres.

Reception has a musical theatre performance come into school to deliver a Pirate 'Jolly Roger' musical experience. Reception offers a djembe drumming workshop.

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 perform a Christmas Nativity and Year 2 also perform a musical at the end of Year 2.

Soloists from the infant and junior schools are invited to perform in assemblies.

The school choir has an opportunity to perform at the BYMT Infant Music Festival, at St Paul's Crofton Cafe for elderly members of the community, and for family and friends.

BYMT come into school to provide us with assemblies for the children to experience different types of musical instruments.

There are opportunities to listen to live music during assemblies provided by visiting professional musicians and instrumentalists from Darrick Wood Juniors.

Children in EYFS have access to percussion instruments and digital technology to create and make music beyond the core curriculum. Children celebrate World Nursery Rhyme Day in November and learn to sing a core number of songs by the time they leave Reception.

Nursery have a sponsored sing-along where families are invited to join in at an event where 20 nursery rhymes and songs are sung together. All children then take home a booklet with the words to the songs and rhymes to continue singing at home.

## Staffing and Funding Details

The table below details the staffing and funding arrangements for the music providing at Darrick Wood:

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| Curricular – Music Lessons | Kapow Primary Scheme of Work | School funded |
| Curricular – Singing Assemblies | Teaching Staff | No funding requirement |
| Co-curricular - Rock Steady | Rock Steady Band | Funding by individual parents |
| Co-curricular - Violin Lessons | Claire Wibberly | Funding by individual parents |
| Y1 Whole class teaching of flute | BYMT | Funded by school/choir club |
| Y2 Whole class teaching of hand-chimes | BYMT | Funded by Darrick Wood Infant School Parent Association |
| **<u>Ambitions for 2026-27</u>** | | |
| School Choir | Teaching Staff | No funding requirement |
| Co-curricular – Music lessons | BYMT | Funding by individual parents |
| Curricular - Whole Class Ensemble Music Lessons | BYMT | Funded by Darrick Wood Infant School Parent Association |

## EYFS, Pupil Premium and SEND Provision

### SEND

Each Kapow Primary Music plan gives details on how individual lessons can be adapted.

Staff teaching in our Nurture Room have received SEND Music Therapy training by Claire Tillerson BYMT and have dedicated weekly music sessions which are accessible to all abilities.

### Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium children can engage with our curricular offer but also receive additional support for co-curricular activities.

## Communication Strategies

The music curriculum, intent, implementation and impact are displayed on our school website, along with curriculum overviews per year group which show the overall Music topics being taught on half-termly basis.

The school newsletter contains bulletins regarding musical events (and highlights outside opportunities) and communication is made directly to parents with regard to invitations to concerts and productions. On class newsletters, composers or musical artists are promoted to increase the cultural capital of Music for our families and wider community.

## Actions for Further Development

The teaching of Music at Darrick Wood is subject to review and monitoring by curriculum reviews, audits such as this Music Development Plan, and by constant evaluation by our staff team.

In the course of this evaluation, actions have been identified for further development, which will be evaluated in a year's time in July 2026.

**Our priorities and plans for 2026-2027 are as follows:**

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| **School Life:**<br><br>- Value of Music<br>- Leadership<br>- Pupil Voice<br>- Inclusion | **We will:**<br><br>- Ensure music is an integral part of daily school life<br>- Drive the development of music across the school and advocate for the importance of music in school life in collaboration with Senior Leaders<br>- Ensure there is a named governor responsible for monitoring music<br>- Collect children's views about musical activities, repertoire and curriculum music are invited and reflected in the curriculum<br>- Target children eligible for Pupil Premium and support them to engage in musical opportunities and tuition through this funding |
| **Curriculum:**<br><br>- Design<br>- Assessment<br>- Timetabling | **We will:**<br><br>- Plan for whole class music tuition, increase the offer of 1-1 tuition and ensembles<br>- Assess at planned points throughout the year using a variety of methods - video, audio, written etc to track pupil progress.<br>- Deliver whole class instrumental lessons, in addition to curriculum music lessons in at least one-year group. |
| **Instrumental Teaching:**<br><br>- Whole Class Ensemble Teaching<br>- Individual/small group vocal or instrumental lessons | **We will:**<br><br>- Plan for Whole Class Ensemble teaching to be delivered for at least 30 minutes for 10 weeks, on one instrument to one-year group.<br>- Offer individual/small group instrumental or vocal lessons in a variety of instruments. |
| **Singing:**<br><br>- Whole School<br>- Vocal Lessons | **We will:**<br><br>- Ensure singing is heard around school and in the classroom and staff are confident at leading high-quality singing in their classrooms<br>- Offer small group singing lessons. |

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| **Ensembles:**<br><br>- Choir<br>- Instrumental | **We will:**<br><br>- Continue with choir club and meet regularly and performs within school and in the local community<br>- Plan opportunities for the ensembles to perform to peers, the school community and the wider community |
| **Musical Events and Opportunities:**<br><br>- Live Music<br>- CPD<br>- Resources<br>- Budget<br>- Partnerships | **We will:**<br><br>- Celebrate success of music in the school through assembly performances<br>- Plan for at least one live high-quality music performance at school a year e.g. provided by a professional musician, secondary school students, BYMT ensemble<br>- Continue to ensure that staff are confident in their music lesson delivery to have the best outcome for the children<br>- Continue to develop musical links with Darrick Wood Junior school and Darrick Wood Senior school |

**Further Development:**

- To continue to evaluate our Kapow Primary Music curriculum and make amendments where necessary
- To build connections with Darrick Wood Junior School and Darrick Wood Senior School allowing children to watch more live performances and expose children to a wider range of instruments and increase musical engagement
- To consider ways in which to build the profile and engagement of singing in our school