

Music Development Plan, 2024-27: Stephen Freeman 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	November 2024
Review Date	September 2025, September 2026, September 2027
Music Subject Lead	Alice Bennett
RET Primary Music Lead	Kat Melidis
Name of local music hub	Oxfordshire Music Service

At Stephen Freeman Primary School at Stephen Freeman School, our Music curriculum is supported by the RET 'Sing Up' Music Programme. Children have the opportunity to:

- listen and appraise different genres of music and types of instruments
- play rhythm games and explore voice patterns
- explore and create music through playing musical instruments
- create their own musical compositions
- sing confidently and tunefully
- learn about different composers
- participate in productions and shows; perform to an audience

In our EYFS, music is experienced in both structured activities as well as through self-exploration. Music is used to support other areas of the Early Years Curriculum, for example, singing rhymes to develop Literacy skills, number songs and clapping rhythms to help counting. All children at Stephen Freeman have the opportunity to learn an instrument. We have invited Peripatetic Music Teachers to teach recorder to all our Year 3 children. The children are loaned an instrument so that they are able to practice at home. Children with SEND access Music lessons with their peers through the inclusion of high-quality visual resources, such as auditory inspiration and cue cards projected on the class whiteboard. The use of rhythm throughout the Charanga teaching sequence aids children's ability to sequence and follow instructions in the lesson by creating a predictable structure they can follow. As well as children learning Music through the curriculum, there are plenty of other opportunities for children to enjoy and engage in music making activities. This includes: participating in the Didcot Music Festival, School Choir (after-school club), singing in assembly, school productions, for example the annual nativity plays, carol concerts and end of Year 6 Leavers' Production. One element of this is the mixed year group music appreciation and singing based music session run by our Music leaders.

A. The Music Curriculum

In Music, our aim is for every child to have an enriching musical experience throughout their time at Stephen Freeman School, building their confidence and skills in every year group.

the Music curriculum is supported by the RET Sing Up Music Programme. Pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities to develop their musical knowledge, skills and appreciation. These opportunities include:

- *listening to and appraising a range of musical genres and instruments*
- *participating in rhythm games and exploring vocal patterns*
- *exploring and creating music through the use of a variety of instruments*
- *composing original pieces of music*
- *singing with confidence and accuracy*
- *learning about significant composers*
- *performing in productions and concerts and presenting their work to an audience*

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), music is experienced through both structured teaching and child-initiated exploration. Music is also used to support learning across other areas of the Early Years Curriculum, for example through the use of songs and rhymes to develop early literacy skills, and number songs and clapping rhythms to support counting and mathematical understanding.

All children at Stephen Freeman Primary School have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. Peripatetic Music Teachers deliver recorder lessons to all pupils in Year 3. Instruments are loaned to pupils to enable them to practise at home and further develop their skills.

[Click here to find out more about the Music knowledge and skills progression throughout the school.](#)

Actions: To improve the Music curriculum further, actions planned for 2025 – 2026 are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
Offer CPD training to staff as required to build subject knowledge and musical skills – Glockenspiel in KS1 and Keyboards in Years 4 – 6.	<p>Staff will feel increasingly confident in delivering the music curriculum and will be more successful in embedding a strong and sustainable music culture across the school. Music is taught regularly throughout the school: weekly in KS1 and Year 3 every term, and weekly in KS2 on a termly rotation (every other term).</p> <p>Staff have received high-quality training from AB (January 2026), which covered an overview of the 'Sing Up' curriculum, expectations for progression, effective lesson delivery, and the development of musical techniques, including the use of keyboards and glockenspiels. In addition, all staff have watched the 'Sing Up' CPD introduction video provided by KLM.</p> <p>A staff subject knowledge audit was completed in March 2025. Identified areas for development include the consistent embedding of musical vocabulary within lessons and refining musical technique, for example, holding beaters correctly to achieve optimum sound quality. Impact will be monitored and reviewed through pupil conversations, lesson observations, and targeted individual support as needed.</p>	AB KLM
In light of this CPD, update Curriculum Intent, including the long-term curriculum plans and	There is a clear, updated plan of the content and progression of music skills across the school.	AB KLM

<p>embed the new 'Sing Up' curriculum (as of January 2026).</p>	<p>The school's long-term curriculum overview was reviewed and updated in January 2026 to reflect the transition to the Sing Up curriculum. AB identified explicit links to the National Curriculum, mapped key vocabulary for each unit, and supported the embedding of the new scheme through learning walks, pupil voice activities, and targeted staff support where required.</p> <p>The long-term curriculum now clearly demonstrates progression across units and year groups and includes specific curriculum links and agreed vocabulary. In addition, AB completed an audit of musical instruments, created a timetable to ensure equitable access across KS1 and KS2, and will continue to work closely with staff to support the effective implementation of the new curriculum.</p>	
<p>To expand the provision of music tuition available to students through the Oxfordshire Music Service and 'Rocksteady Music School'.</p>	<p>Children will be exposed to a wider range of instruments and have the opportunity to continue learning the recorder after Year 3, alongside other instruments through the OMS and Rocksteady.</p> <p>New instruments will be offered, such as flute, piano, voice and drums to further increase the school's music offer.</p> <p>Development of the new 'Music' room</p>	<p>AB</p>
<p>Provide further CPD Material to support Staff Development outside of lessons.</p> <p>AB to work closely with Kat Melidis (Music at DGS).</p>	<p>Staff will feel more confident in their own subject knowledge and understanding of how to utilize the 'Charanga' scheme. As a result, they will be more successful at embedding a strong music culture in the school.</p> <p>AB to also prepare staff for a change over to the 'Sing Up' scheme from the next school year.</p> <p>In Term 4, KLM will come into school onc</p>	<p>AB</p>

B. Extra-curricular Music

For 2024-25, the following Music tuition is available at **Stephen Freeman Primary School**

- **Whole-class instrumental tuition in instrument** once a week for 6 terms for all pupils in Year 3
This is led by teachers from the Oxfordshire County Music Service (OCMS), and is intended to introduce students to a range of different instruments and then students can choose to continue to have instrumental lessons thereafter.
- **Choir**, open to pupils in KS2. This is led by Miss Bennett on a Wednesday after school.
- **Instrumental lessons** will also soon be available in KS2, starting with recorder.

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 2024-25 are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
<p>Audit equity of access</p>	<p>To monitor access, ensuring that all learners who are interested are able to access learning a musical</p>	<p>AB</p>

instrument, with a particular focus on disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.

C) Musical Experiences

At *Stephen Freeman School*, 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.

Assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils sing a range of hymns and pop songs daily during whole-school worship. • Once a week, pupils practise their skills and learn new songs during music assembly. • For special events and holidays, such as Christmas, we have a
Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils in Reception and 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 Y5, pupils learn songs for a Christmas spectacular performance where they are joined by the choir. • In Y6, pupils learn songs for an end of year production for parents and carers.
Concerts and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Voices, Festival of Voices, Didcot Partnership event, visits to concerts at the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, RET orchestral concert and workshops.

Actions: To improve our extra-curricular Music offer further, actions planned for 2024-25 are:

Action	Intended impact	Monitoring
Actively seek new opportunities	To broaden the opportunities currently available to students for music lessons and additional tuition.	AB
Review performance opportunities	Look at expanding performances through the year with the new instrumental teachers on recorder and keyboard to increase music profile and culture in the school and keyboard and singing across the school. Plan in weekly music assemblies for KS1.	AB and KLM

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](#)

