



Music Development Plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Gary Hanratty
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lewis Delivett
Name of local music hub	Waltham Forest Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is an important part of the academic, creative, social and community life of Riverley Primary school. It is taught weekly as a discrete subject and is enhanced through cross-curricular topics and events, including weekly singing assemblies.

At Riverley, the intention is that children gain a firm understanding of music through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts. We embody the belief that all pupils are musicians.

It is our aim to offer an outstanding independent-style music education for all pupils, predicated on breadth and excellence. We provide a rich programme of free extra-curricular activities and create a stimulating physical environment. Having developed a team of interesting and talented music specialists and practitioners, they are motivated to advance their own knowledge and skills as well aim for high levels of pupil achievement. Through our provision we aim to teach young people to discover their talents and passions and to use them to contribute positively to society.

Overall Aims of Music Education at Riverley

We intend that pupils will:

- find enjoyment and fulfilment through music making and musical expression
- be engaged and inspired to express their ideas and feelings through the exploration and organisation of sound and to develop a love of music
- develop skills and techniques to use a range of instruments (including voice) and to use technology appropriately
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure
- listen attentively to music, recognising its main elements, distinguishing musical instruments and responding to changes in character and mood
- develop an appropriate vocabulary to help them understand and discuss their own work and that of others
- understand the relationship between sound and symbol to enable them to record and perform musical ideas
- appreciate and evaluate the work of a range of composers and musicians from a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including music from other cultures



Music Development Plan

- take part in a variety of extra-curricular activities
- have access to peripatetic music lessons in addition to the music curriculum within school

Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music is taught weekly by a specialist music teacher, providing young learners with consistent, high-quality musical experiences. Music education is also integrated within 'Expressive Arts and Design' a key component of early learning that fosters creativity and self-expression. Foundational music skills are developed through activities such as singing familiar songs, moving rhythmically to music, tapping out simple rhythms, and exploring sound variations using a variety of instruments. These experiences support early musical development, encouraging children to express themselves, develop listening skills, and build confidence in creative exploration.

Key Stage One

In KS1 pupils are taught how to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and expressing chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the interrelated dimensions of music.

Key Stage Two

In KS2 pupils are taught how to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the interrelated dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music

Our Bespoke Curriculum

Our Griffin Schools Trust Primary Music Curriculum, which was established at Riverley, is continually reviewed and developed alongside the development of a creative and skills-based curriculum.

The Griffin Schools Trust Primary Music Curriculum is structured as a spiral curriculum, allowing pupils to revisit key musical concepts each year to deepen their understanding and skill mastery over time. This approach ensures that foundational skills, such as pitch and voice identification, introduced in early years, are continuously built upon as pupils progress. For example, each summer term, pupils study opera at increasing levels of complexity: Year 1 pupils begin by exploring pitch and recognising different voice types, while by Year 6, they study a variety of opera forms and develop strong performance skills, including confident, refined singing. This gradual development reinforces and extends pupils' knowledge, preparing them with a comprehensive understanding of musical concepts and performance.



Music Development Plan

We aim to ensure that pupils develop skills, knowledge and understanding that meets and exceeds National Curriculum requirements. The bespoke scheme of work is implemented by music specialist teachers, however a robust coaching and mentoring plan is in place to support class teacher's subject knowledge enhancement in music.

The Teaching of Music

At Riverley, music education is thoughtfully integrated throughout each stage of learning, ensuring that pupils develop foundational skills and an appreciation for music from an early age. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), music is taught by both specialist music teachers and class teachers. This dual approach allows young learners to experience structured, high-quality music sessions while also engaging in daily musical activities within their environment. This exposure fosters early musicality, laying the groundwork for a lifelong love of music.

In Key Stages 1 and 2, music lessons are taught exclusively by specialist teachers who bring expertise and passion to each session. These specialists guide pupils in securing key skills across a well-rounded music curriculum that includes rhythm, pitch, melody, and harmony. Additionally, weekly singing assemblies led by our music specialists emphasise the development of vocal technique, fostering confidence and unity. During these assemblies, pupils engage in part-singing and explore harmony, building their ability to sing in rounds and canons. This structured approach to vocal assembly not only enhances musical understanding but also strengthens pupils' listening skills, teamwork, and confidence in performing as part of an ensemble.

These assemblies help pupils to prepare for school events, where singing often plays a central role, and they deepen our school's culture of shared musical experiences. Class teachers collaborate closely with music specialists to support pupils' preparation for school performances, coordinating rehearsals and reinforcing musical learning in the classroom. This partnership ensures that music is a vibrant and continuous part of school life, with ample opportunities to showcase their progress and talents.

To enrich our music program further, peripatetic teachers from Waltham Forest Music Service visit the school weekly to provide specialised instruction in both whole-class and small-group settings. This team of visiting professionals offers focused lessons on a variety of instruments, allowing students to explore areas of interest or deepen their proficiency in particular instruments. The small-group lessons especially allow for personalised feedback and skill-building, creating a well-rounded music education that nurtures both individual growth and collaborative ensemble playing.

This structured, multi-tiered approach to music instruction ensures that every Riverley child is supported in their musical journey, benefiting from a cohesive curriculum, expert guidance, and a wealth of performance opportunities that make music a cornerstone of their educational experience.

The Music Team consists of:

Director of Music - Lewis Delivett
Head of Performance - Gary Hanratty
Head of Strings - Benedict Taylor
Teacher of Music - Bev Crome
Woodwind Teacher (WFMS) - Matthew Sulzmann

Assessment

Children are continually assessed in Music against Learning Questions and National Curriculum statements. Pupil progress and achievement is documented and captured on video and stored using the app Evidence Me. This evidence is used to inform termly data drops on Target tracker.



Music Development Plan

Everyday 'formative' assessments help gauge pupils' understanding and ability and informs future planning. Discussion and dialogue are essential and enable pupils, as well as teachers to evaluate progress. Written annual reports provide both parents and future teachers with information about pupil achievement within Music. The Music team are present during family consultation evenings to provide families with termly updates on pupils' achievements as well as targets in music.

Adaptations Within the Music Curriculum

Adaptations in music are systematically planned so that all pupils including those with SEND fulfil their potential and achieve highly in Music:

Tasks may be adapted in the following ways:

- Open ended tasks so that the work can be interpreted on different levels – by outcome. Pupils will always be presented with three tasks of varying ability and will choose which ones matches their needs.
- Adaptations by the amount of support given. Pupils with SEND may have adult 1:1 support or have small group support during lessons.
- Specific groupings, either in ability groups to challenge and extend pupils of similar ability, or in mixed ability groups to share expertise among the group.
- Within whole class activities, rhythms or parts of varying difficulty are allocated to appropriate groups.
- Our music curriculum is representative of all cultures so that pupils can see themselves within the music curriculum. For example, during our opera unit of work children study a wide range of music as well as composers including South Korean, America and more locally Croydon. This is in line with Riverley's commitment to Representation 365 where we consciously ensure that we represent underrepresented groups in society all year round.

Music Qualifications or Awards

Pupils at Riverley develop an in-depth understanding of excellence in musical performance. They are encouraged and supported to participate in prestigious opportunities, such as the Annual Griffin Schools Trust Music Medal Competition and the Mayor of London's Music Fund award. These platforms allow pupils an opportunity to showcase their skills, celebrate their progress, and gain recognition for their dedication to music, fostering both confidence and a passion for high-level performance.

For a more in depth understanding of our ambitious curriculum please visit: <https://riverley-gst.org/bskpdf/music-long-term-plan/>

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Riverley, we have long prioritised the development of an enriching co-curricular music program, underpinned by a robust investment in resources and facilities that support an exceptional and comprehensive music curricular offer.

Our commitment ensures that pupils are not only exposed to diverse musical experiences but also receive high quality instruction and access to a variety of instruments. This dedication is reflected in the extensive range of resources available to our pupils, in our dedicated music room, which include:

- a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments
- 30 Djembe drums
- samba Kit (Full class size)
- steel Pans



Music Development Plan

- 30 Ukuleles
- class set of xylophones and metallophones
- 1 x Yamaha Clavinova
- 1x Yamaha Upright Piano (acoustic)
- 2 x Stage Pianos
- 60 Violins
- 10 Cellos
- 25 Clarinets
- 15 trumpets
- 10 ³/₄ size guitars
- 15 ipads used for recording, composition, performance and research.
- selection of mics and amps
- wireless PA System

Instrumental Offer

Alongside our expansive music curriculum, Riverley children participate in a structured instrumental tuition program, capitalising on the wide range of instruments available. This program is led by our team of specialist teachers, including educators from the Waltham Forest Music Service. Through these lessons, students have the opportunity to learn and perform in ensembles fostering that lifelong love of music.

Our whole-class instrumental program introduces pupils to a new instrument each year, tailored to their developmental stage:

- **Year 1:** Ocarina
- **Year 2:** Recorder
- **Year 3:** Ukulele
- **Year 4:** Violin
- **Years 5 and 6:** Students may continue with violin lessons or explore the clarinet or cello as part of our continuation programme.

A fundamental aspect of our music philosophy is equity in access - therefore, we provide all pupils with free instrument hire and tuition, ensuring that every child has the chance to pursue a high-quality music education.

Music Enrichment

To further enhance our pupils' musical experience, we offer a variety of free clubs, including guitar club, keyboard club, and djembe drumming club, which expand their musical capital and proficiency. Additionally, pupils can participate in both an upper and lower school choir, the Griffin Schools Trust East London Orchestra, and other after-school music clubs that vary - based on pupils' interests. These opportunities allow our pupils to explore a range of musical genres and performance styles beyond the curriculum as well as enjoy the collaborative nature of music-making.

Ballroom Dancing Sessions

All pupils at Riverley participate in a term of ballroom dancing lessons led by a professional dance teacher, providing a unique opportunity to explore the dynamic relationship between movement and music. These sessions encourage pupils to develop a deeper understanding of rhythm, timing, and expressive movement, while enhancing physical coordination and overall fitness.

Through creative dance exercises, pupils learn to interpret music with their bodies, fostering not only musicality but also confidence and self-expression. This enriching experience complements their learning in both music and PE, supporting creativity, teamwork, and an appreciation for the discipline and elegance of dance. Pupils, in Year 5, undertake a graded examination in ballroom



Music Development Plan

dancing and this achievement adds a meaningful dimension to their overall education, leaving them with a strong foundation for future dance or performance pursuits.

Opportunities To Perform

Our Orchestra and choirs are an integral part of the Riverley community, performing regularly at a wide range of events throughout the year. In addition to these groups performing during our Proud Traditions, they share their talents and put on meaningful performances, for example, at the nearby nursing home, where they bring joy to residents through music. These experiences not only enrich our pupils' musical abilities but also foster a strong sense of empathy, community connection, and social responsibility. Through these performances, students develop confidence, pride, and a shared commitment to contributing positively to their wider community.

Part C: Musical experiences

Performance is central to the music curriculum at Riverley Primary School, where pupils participate in a rich variety of performance opportunities that enhance their musical skills and confidence. Music plays a significant role in our school's Proud Traditions and is woven into key celebrations throughout the year.

These include cherished events like Carols by Candlelight, Founders Day - The Big Sing and the Griffin Arts Festival, where music becomes a core element of our whole-school theatrical production.

From Nursery through to Year 6, each year group prepares and performs an annual show. These performances span a broad repertoire, from the Nativity to Shakespeare adaptations, and are led by class teachers in collaboration with music specialists. This partnership ensures that pupils not only develop confidence in acting but also have opportunities to showcase their musical abilities through singing, instrumental playing, and ensemble work.

Building Teacher Expertise in Music Education

Our teaching staff continuously enhance their musical subject knowledge to effectively guide pupils in their performances. This commitment is evident in our Winter and Spring Musical Recitals, which highlight the school's dedication to both music education and performance. During these events, students share their musical growth from both curricular and co-curricular activities and are encouraged to perform solo pieces, allowing individual talent to shine. Bespoke Christmas shows, written by a member of our music team, are performed each December with all pupils across the school participating.

Community Engagement and Prestigious Venues

Pupils at Riverley benefit from a variety of performance venues and trips, where they proudly present their musical skills and enhance their appreciation of a wide range of genres. A notable example is the annual performance at St. Giles Church in The Barbican, where students perform alongside their music teachers with a large number of family members in attendance, creating lasting memories and community connections. Over the years, Riverley students have had the privilege to perform in prestigious locations, including the Royal Opera House, Ely Cathedral, and Barbican Centre bringing their music education to life on celebrated stages.

Enriching Partnerships with Leading Music Organisations

Riverley's long-standing partnership with the Royal Over-Seas League has provided pupils with enriching cross-cultural and musical experiences. Through this collaboration, our school has been twinned with a school in Kenya, fostering international connections and understanding. Pupils have also had the opportunity to work alongside outstanding professional ensembles and orchestras, such as the Ferio Saxophone Quartet, Kabantu, Britten Sinfonia, the London



Music Development Plan

Symphony Orchestra, and the London Gay Symphonic Winds. These interactions inspire pupils and introduce them to diverse musical styles and professional performance standards.

East London Orchestra

Talented pupils in Years 5 and 6 further refine their musical skills through participation in the East London Orchestra, where they learn advanced techniques, ensemble playing, and the discipline of performing in a structured orchestra. This experience is instrumental in preparing students for future musical pursuits and instilling a lifelong appreciation for orchestral music.

Whole-School Theatrical Productions

Each year, Riverley engages students in a whole-school interactive theatrical performance that brings together film, theatre, music, and dance. These productions are designed to immerse students in creative collaboration, musical timing, and the intricacies of ensemble work. Recent Productions have included *The Lion King* (2021), *The Harry Potter Experience* (2022), and *The Wizard of Oz* (2023), with 2024 dedicated to an adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*. During these productions, music takes centre stage, allowing students to understand the role of music in storytelling and to build skills in rhythm, harmony and coordination.

Through these diverse and enriching performance opportunities, Riverley children not only develop their musical abilities but also gain confidence, resilience and a deep appreciation for the arts; many consider a future within the arts as a result.

In the future

As we look ahead, our future plans for music provision at Riverley Primary School focus on enhancing the already rich musical experience we provide for our pupils.

Key areas of development will include:

- **Curriculum Enrichment:** We will continue to evolve our music schemes of work, ensuring they meet and exceed National Curriculum standards while fostering creativity and skill development across all key stages. Specialist teachers will continue to engage in research and maximise the use of technology to future proof the curriculum.
- **Increased Access and Inclusivity:** Building on our commitment to equal opportunities, we will enhance access to an even wider offering of musical opportunities, especially for pupils with SEND. This will include offering additional peripatetic lessons tailored to their needs.
- **Extra-curricular Expansion:** We plan to introduce more extra-curricular music activities, such as new instrumental clubs and performance opportunities. These will include more community-focused performances, further enhancing our pupils' engagement with music beyond the classroom.
- **Technology Integration:** Expanding the use of iPads and digital tools for composition, recording, and performance will remain a priority.
- **Staff Development:** Continued professional development for music staff will ensure they stay updated with modern music education practices, improving teaching quality across all key stages.

These initiatives will ensure that Riverley's music programme remains dynamic, inclusive and inspiring for all pupils.