

Music development plan summary: Riverside Primary School and Nursery



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Katrina Ellis
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisations (if partnership in place)	iRock Music Mark YoungVoices

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.

Our vision is to enable children to become happy and confident musicians by creating an inclusive learning environment that nurtures creativity and enhances potential.

Music is an exciting and integral part of life at Riverside and we aim to provide a wide range of music opportunities for all through our ambitious music curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities described in our Music Development Plan.

Part A: Curriculum music

- Music is a timetabled subject, with schemes of work and assessment in place. We have regular, consistent provision throughout the year, with one hour per week from EYFS to Year 6. We have a dedicated Music Room.
- The music curriculum is as ambitious as the national curriculum and draws on insights from the model music curriculum. Our scheme of work takes a holistic approach to music and follows the spiral curriculum model, in which previous skills and knowledge are revisited and built upon. While there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, the progression planned into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. We also encourage cross-curricular links, ensuring music is taught as a holistic part of the curriculum where possible. Full information about our music curriculum is available in our Curriculum Document on our school's website.
- Pupils engage with schemes of work. Good progress is demonstrated by secure, incremental learning of the technical, constructive, and expressive aspects of music, thereby developing musical understanding.
- To help children fulfil their potential, a music specialist teaches music across the school, and we have a richly resourced music room, including class sets of tuned/untuned instruments and music technology.
- Pupils with SEN can participate in and engage with music-making. The use of manipulatives and visual aids to support understanding, ear defenders to reduce sound, scaffolding, and mixed-ability groupings have been successful interventions that lead to full participation in the lessons.
- Every child has an opportunity to learn an instrument and to make progress. Years 3 and 4 learn the recorder, Y5 and Y6 learn the ukulele, and all year groups use age-appropriate percussion for rhythm-related schemes (for example, djembes for KS2).
- The school has been forming strong and fruitful partnerships, sharing resources and good practice. We work closely with our local Music Education Hub, Berkshire Music Trust, and we have got the Music Mark accreditation.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Riverside School Choir

Our school choir performs annually at the Junior Music Festival at the Hexagon in Reading. The choir also performs at community events such as the Christmas and Summer Fair. The choir allows the children attending to sing in front of different audiences and build on songs they have learnt in their music lessons, as well as broaden their repertoire through other songs and experiences.

iRock

The school offers weekly group tuition in keyboard, guitar, drums, and vocals, led by iRock. Pupils and families facing the greatest barriers are given support to engage in music learning as part of and beyond the curriculum. Pupils have the opportunity to perform to families and the whole school community every term in a dedicated iRock assembly.

Berkshire Music Trust

The school offers weekly small-group and individual tuition on the violin, led by the Berkshire Music Trust. Pupils are provided the opportunity to perform to their peers at key points within the year to showcase their progress and inspire other pupils to learn a classical instrument.

Space for practice

KS2 children who are interested in playing a musical instrument may practice in the music room at lunchtime.

Music Ambassadors

Each year, two pupils per class are selected as Music Ambassadors. They learn to take on a position of responsibility and influence to help ensure a thriving culture of music across the school.

Part C: Musical experiences

Singing assemblies

Singing is embedded in the life of the school and in every child's experience, drawing on a wide range of high-quality, age-appropriate repertoire and fostering musicianship. We love to sing at Riverside and hold weekly singing assemblies every Friday for Years 1 and 2.

Composer of the Month

To increase the variety of music that children are exposed to, we celebrate a Composer and/or musician of the month. Every month at Riverside we explore and celebrate the work of different composers from around the world and throughout time

Performances

There are many opportunities for all pupils to perform during their time at Riverside and to experience live music.

The views of the pupils (pupil voice) have been considered in developing the music provision, and we have built a community within the school. Our school choir and key stage 2 classes often perform to younger audiences.

Each year group performs a song or piece of music learned in class during their class assemblies for families and the school community. These can range from Harvest songs to a Leavers' song for the Year 6s. Whole school singing takes place during Culture Day and the festive season.

Each term, the pupils from iRock perform a concert for pupils and parents, which is always very well received and gives them an opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

KS1 and Reception performed the Christmas Nativity for parents; Y5-6 took part in the YoungVoices Sing-Along; and Year 6 had a Leaver's Show, where they performed a musical play for all the children in the school and their parents.

If the opportunity arises, children often get to watch performances outside of school, such as pantomimes and shows, and perform a song or a piece at their class assemblies.

This year the whole school took part in a Bhangra workshop, where the children explored a range of Punjabi music, rhythms and dance moves.

In the future

- Provide further school performances and special music events, such as YoungVoices at the O2 and Riverside's first music concert.
- Build stronger links with families to enable more effective support for music development.
- Continue to signpost external family events to support parents with musical learning.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.