

# Music development plan summary: Miers Court Primary 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	Jo Townsend
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Laura Kavanagh
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dynamics Medway Music Association

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.

At Miers Court we are passionate about making musical learning engaging, enjoyable and meaningful; we want children to leave Miers Court with an interest and passion for music of their own.

The scheme "Charanga" is used to support teachers' subject knowledge and scaffold the children's learning all of the way from the EYFS up to Year 6. This is a flexible, skills-based curriculum which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum. Charanga offers staff the flexibility to use their own judgements and to teach what is relevant to their class whilst keeping singing, playing, listening and musical engagement very much at the heart.

Our music curriculum is designed so pupils can become well-rounded musical individuals. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences which are designed to build confidence as well as musical skill. Children are encouraged to listen to, appreciate and explore different forms of music of increasing length as they move throughout the school in order that they can become reflective and expressive when exploring their own and others' music.

Within lessons, children develop an understanding of the elements of music by actively listening to a range of music, exploring and learning songs, composing and performing, and using a range of classroom instruments, especially the glockenspiel. Alongside the provisions at Miers Court, we also work with Medway Dynamics and the Kent Music Hub to provide children with wider opportunities in music, which include instrumental skill.

Children receive the equivalent of one hour of music education over the course of a week. However, this may be "blocked" over the period of a few days as this can offer better teaching and learning opportunities.

In addition to Charanga, the school works with Dynamics and Kent Music to provide the children with wider musical opportunities:

- In Key Stage 1, Year 1 children and staff participate in a music project which works as an introduction to general musicianship skills for one term of the year.
- In Key Stage 2, Year 4 children develop melodic and rhythmic skills through whole class recorder sessions delivered by Jo Townsend – Music Co Ordinator or a Licensed Music Teacher if available.

To optimise outcomes for SEND pupils we provide help in managing the written communication aspects of music – such as the use of symbols – by using larger print and a greater emphasis on aural memory skills. Music vocabulary is continually referred to in music lessons and assemblies to provide opportunities for children to understand how to apply their knowledge and skills in differing contexts. We maximise the learning experience with opportunities to learn about music through physical contact with an instrument, breaking tasks into manageable chunks and allowing rehearsal time before performance tasks. We use a lot of modelling, anticipate barriers and aim to establish a learning environment which promotes resilience.

## **Part B: Extra-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.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are given the opportunity to learn either the clarinet, saxophone, guitar, violin or keyboard as a means of further developing the skills that

they have learnt during their recorder lessons. These take place through external peripatetic instrument teachers paid for by the parents.

Clarinets and violins are loaned for a small charge by Dynamics.

The Music Lead and colleague run a choir all year round, before school and during a lunchtime to prepare the children for Young Voices at the O2, Rochester Carol Festival and KS2 Choral Festival at Chatham Central Theatre. The children also have the opportunity to strengthen community links by performing in local nursing homes and in the local area.

Nineteen children with SEND and nine children receiving Pupil Premium access extra-curricular music opportunities.

Some children attend Saturday Music Centres and holiday courses run by Medway Music Association. The school ensures that they advertise upcoming events to all parents and students at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **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.

Our aim is to maximise the cultural capital children receive from the musical education they receive at Miers Court by exposing them to musical influences and pieces from a range of styles, artists and time periods.

All children attend a weekly singing assembly where they are given the opportunity to sing a variety of songs which help them to develop their musical skills such as singing in two parts. The weekly singing assembly is also taken as an opportunity to further develop the children's knowledge of the elements of music which they can then take back into their class music lessons. The Music Lead is supported by a member of staff in these assemblies as a means of further developing the musical skills of all teaching staff.

At special times of the year (Harvest, Christmas and Easter), the school has an assembly where each class eg: sings a song to the rest of the school. This helps the children to develop their confidence to perform in front of others from a young age.

Children in Early Years and KS1 each perform their own nativity including performing songs to other Year groups and parents. In KS2, all year groups learn different songs as well as KS2 songs culminating in a KS2 Christmas celebration. In Year 6, the children perform an end of year production to an audience of KS2 and parents in July. This regularly involves some solo, harmony and ensemble singing.

Throughout the year, children have the opportunity to perform in assemblies to celebrate success. At the end of the year, children who have been learning an instrument have the opportunity to perform in a music concert to the school and parents to celebrate the music making that is happening in the school.

## **In the future**

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

We will continue to work with Kent Music and Dynamics to further develop music education at Miers Court.

We will subscribe to the Musician of the Month programme. The aim of the programme is to create a culture of musical appreciation across the school.

We aim to investigate ways in which we can give the children further opportunities to watch live music events – Kidenza.

## **Further information**

During this academic year, the Trust's Primary Music Leads will be working with Kent Music to further develop music leadership across all of the Primary Academies.