

# Music Development Plan

## Rockmount Primary School

### Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Sept 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2025
Name of the school music lead	Alison Symons
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Overseen by Viv Bull & Helen Carvall
Name of local music hub	Croydon Music and Arts
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

### Rockmount's Music Curriculum:

At Rockmount, we are committed to providing an inclusive and engaging music curriculum for all pupils, ensuring that every child has access to high-quality music education. Our ultimate aim is for every child to leave with a love of music and certainty that they are a musician. Our [Music Curriculum](#), carefully designed by our music specialist, is published on the school website and maps the musical journey of our pupils from Nursery through to Year 6.

Aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and informed by the Model Music Curriculum, we aim for our curriculum to enable all pupils to:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others
- have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions (musical elements): pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Our bespoke music curriculum is carefully structured to ensure clear progression of musical skills and understanding across the following key golden threads of learning:

- Performing (singing and playing).
- Composing and improvising (creating music).
- Listening and appraising (listening with understanding and describing music).
- The elements of music (pitch, pulse, duration, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, melody, harmony).
- Musical notation (reading and writing music).
- Musical context (exploring where and when music was created).

In music lessons children are given the opportunities to learn and make progression in the threads above. We zone in on key performing areas to enable effective progression. All year groups learn to:

- Sing with a growing awareness of how to implement good vocal technique.
- Use a range of tuned (e.g., glockenspiels) and un-tuned (e.g., drums, tambourines) classroom percussion instruments.
- From Year 2 children start to learn to play the ukulele and develop keyboard/piano skills.

### Weekly music provision:

All classes from Nursery to Year 6 receive a weekly whole-class lesson with a music specialist:

- Nursery: 30-minute lessons.
- Reception – Year 6: 45–60-minute lessons.
- From Year 1, pupils also take part in fortnightly singing assemblies, which develop their ability to sing for pleasure as well as with increasing accuracy, fluency, control, and expression.

### Supporting SEND in Music:

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), have full access to the music curriculum. Our strategies include:

- **Differentiated Resources:** Enlarged or colour-coded music notation, visual aids, and scaffolded learning activities.
- **Adapted Instruments:** Instruments with coloured dots for guidance, left-handed ukuleles, and chunky beaters.
- **Assistive Technology:** ICT and keyboard functions to support accessibility.
- **Targeted Interventions:** One-to-one or small group sessions for SEND and Pupil Premium pupils.

- **Noise Sensitivity Accommodations:** Ear defenders, calm areas, and strategies to manage sound levels.

These adaptations ensure that all pupils can participate meaningfully and progress in their musical education.

For more detailed information on how we support pupils with SEND, please visit our school website's [SEND](#) page.

## 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.

At Rockmount, we are proud of our excellent relationship with Croydon Music and Arts (CMA), our local Music Hub. As a CMA 'lead school,' we work closely with CMA to share expertise and support music education within Rockmount and across the borough. Our music specialist is also a member of the CMA advisory panel, ensuring that Rockmount's music provision aligns with the latest developments in music education.

### Instrumental Tuition

We offer one-to-one and small group instrumental tuition in piano, guitar, electric bass, drum kit, violin, cello, flute, trumpet, and trombone. Additionally, children have the opportunity to join Rocksteady, where groups of pupils are taught together as a rock band. Currently, approximately 170–200 children are learning an additional instrument in school.

We are committed to making instrumental lessons accessible for all. To support our Pupil Premium children, we offer bursary places to ensure equal opportunities for participation. Detailed information on how to apply for instrumental tuition, including Rocksteady, can be found on our [Music Tuition](#) page on the school website, along with our [Instrumental Music Lessons Policy](#).

### Extra-Curricular Music Clubs

At Rockmount, we provide a variety of extra-curricular music clubs to cater to a broad range of interests and abilities.

#### Choirs

- **Year 4 Choir:** Open to all Year 4 pupils without auditions, free of charge. This choir is led by our music specialist and takes place during lunchtimes in the Music Room.
- **Year 5 and 6 Choir:** Open to all Year 5 and 6 pupils without auditions, free of charge. This choir is led by our music specialist and takes place during lunchtimes in the Music Room.
- **Young Voices Choir (Year 6):** In 2024–25, a special choir will run during the Autumn Term and Spring 1 to prepare for the Young Voices Concert, which the whole of Year 6 will participate in. Open to all Year 6 pupils without auditions, free of charge, and led by our music specialist. The Young Voices Choir concludes after Spring 1, creating space in the timetable for the introduction of our **School Orchestra** in Spring 2.

### Instrumental Ensembles and Clubs

We aim to offer a selection of instrumental ensembles and clubs such as:

- Keyboard Club
- Samba Band
- Recorder Club
- Tuned Percussion Club

The availability of these ensembles is determined by pupil interest and timetabling constraints. This flexible approach allows us to adapt our offerings each term to best suit the needs and enthusiasm of our pupils.

### School Orchestra

**NEW** starting Spring Term 2025, the school orchestra will relaunch after an extended break. Open to all pupils learning an instrument—whether in or out of school—the orchestra will be led by our music specialist and a Croydon Music and Arts teacher. Initially, it will focus on wind, brass, and string instruments. A weekly donation of £2 is encouraged to support this ensemble.

### Partnerships and Community Links

Pupils are signposted to additional ensembles offered by Croydon Music and Arts and other local music education providers, which take place during evenings and weekends.

We also work closely with the London Mozart Players (LMP), a locally based orchestra at Fairfield Halls. LMP supports our music provision by offering discounted concert tickets to Rockmount families and has previously partnered with us to support our school orchestra. These collaborations have included **side-by-side performance opportunities**, where our orchestra performs alongside professional musicians in a concert.

As an **Arts and Culture School** within the '*This is Croydon, London Borough of Culture 2023*' initiative, we actively promote local music and arts events to our school community. This ensures our pupils and their families have access to a rich array of cultural opportunities beyond the classroom.

## 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 Rockmount, we are passionate about providing pupils with a wide range of musical experiences, enabling them to enjoy music as both performers and audience members. These opportunities are designed to nurture creativity, build confidence, and inspire a lifelong love of music.

### Singing Assemblies

We hold fortnightly singing assemblies, alternating between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. These sessions focus on teaching children to sing expressively and learning how to sing correctly while fostering a love of singing. We aim for pupils to leave feeling uplifted—and probably still singing as they head to the playground for break!

### Christmas Concerts and Shows

Every year group from Nursery to Year 6 participates in a Christmas performance tailored to their stage of development and musical abilities:

- **Nursery, Reception, and Year 1:** Each year group presents its own Christmas-themed concert filled with songs, actions, and festive cheer.
- **Year 2:** Performs a musical production linked to the Christmas story, combining singing, movement and acting.
- **Years 3 & 4:** Deliver a joint Christmas concert featuring a large combined choir, smaller year group and class performances, instrumental solos, and ensemble pieces.
- **Years 5 & 6:** Present a separate joint Christmas concert with similar features: a large combined choir, class and year group performances, instrumental solos, and ensemble performances.

### Rockmount Proms and Summer Concerts

In the summer term, we host a concert series called the 'Rockmount Proms,' inspired by the BBC Proms. These concerts are designed to introduce pupils to the excitement and tradition of the Proms while celebrating their own musical progress. The Rockmount Proms typically

include the following concerts (sometimes instruments are combined where possible): a violin concert, brass concert, flute concert, drumkit concert, guitar concert, two piano concerts, a Rocksteady concert, and a final Summer Concert, where the school choirs and a selection of instrumentalists come together to celebrate the musical achievements of our school community.

### Performance Opportunities Throughout the Year

We actively encourage and support children to showcase their musical talents through a variety of events, including:

- **School concerts**, featuring performances by all year groups, instrumentalists, and choirs.
- **Seasonal fairs (Winter and Summer)**, where the school choirs perform and we run a popular 'Busk Stop' for instrumentalists to perform informally.
- **Rocksteady concerts**, held each term for parents and one other year group.
- **Young Voices at the O2 Arena**: The whole of Year 6 joins the massive Young Voices Choir of over 8000 singers, to perform in an unforgettable concert at the O2.
- **Croydon Schools Music Association (CSMA) Junior Choir at Fairfield Halls**: The Year 5 & 6 Choir participates annually in the CSMA Junior Festival, performing as part of a massed choir at Fairfield Halls.
- **Year 5 Fairfield Halls Festive Concert**: Year 5 pupils attend an annual festive concert in December, featuring a live performance by the CMA Orchestra to experience the power and inspiration of professional music-making.
- **Musical shows**: Year 2 and Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to perform in a musical show where they can showcase their singing, dancing, and acting talents.

As a partner school of the London Mozart Players (LMP), we are privileged to offer pupils opportunities to watch and participate in LMP concerts, workshops, and events. In the past, our school orchestra and upper junior choir have performed alongside the LMP orchestra at several concerts, providing unique side-by-side experiences with professional musicians. With the relaunch of our orchestra in the spring term, we are excited to continue this incredible collaboration in the near future.

### Workshops and Visiting Musicians

We are delighted to welcome visiting musicians and host workshops that broaden our pupils' musical horizons. Past workshops have included learning to play steel pans, singing and creating opera, and conducting and composing music alongside members of the LMP orchestra.

We also invite musician parents to share their expertise by running demonstrations or performing for classes, inspiring children with real-life musical role models. We are fortunate to have some very talented musicians among our parent community!

Additionally, we host demo assemblies led by our instrumental teachers to showcase the variety of instruments available for pupils to learn in school, aiming to inspire them to take up an instrument and embark on their own musical journey.

### Busk Stop

In September 2024, we introduced the **Busk Stop**, placing a piano in the hallway to allow pupils to perform informally as their peers return from lunch or at the end of the day. This initiative has already been a huge success, with many children—and even staff—eager to perform.

### Musician of the Month

In November 2023, we launched the **Musician of the Month** initiative, which has created a real buzz around the school and at home with parents. Each month, children are introduced to a different musician and their music through lessons, assemblies, and lunchtime playlists. Pupils are encouraged to research the musician, listen to their music at home, and share their findings and opinions on our interactive display board. This initiative has proven incredibly popular with both pupils and parents.

### Pupil Performances in Lessons

Pupils frequently request to perform for their classmates during music lessons, and we actively encourage this. These opportunities create a supportive environment where performance is celebrated, helping to build confidence and enthusiasm for music.

### Accessibility and Inclusion

Most of our concerts and events are free for pupils to participate in and for families to attend. Where costs are involved (e.g., tickets for parents to watch a concert), we work closely with families—particularly those eligible for Pupil Premium—to ensure that no child misses out on these enriching experiences.

## In the future

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

At Rockmount, we're excited to continue developing our music provision and offering even more opportunities for our pupils to explore and enjoy music. Looking ahead, some of the key areas we're focusing on include:

- **Building Up the Orchestra:** Relaunching and growing our school orchestra is a top priority.
- **Expanding Music Clubs:** Exploring ways to provide a wider range of music clubs during lunch and potentially after school.
- **Boosting Instrumental Learning:** Working in collaboration with the Croydon Music and Arts service (CMA) to increase the number of children learning wind, brass, and string instruments, which will also help support the relaunch of our school orchestra.
- **Making the Most of London:** Being in London gives us fantastic access to world-class music opportunities. We hope to organise even more trips and experiences for our pupils, making full use of the vibrant musical culture on our doorstep.
- **Rebuilding Links with the London Mozart Players (LMP):** We're committed to re-establishing our partnership with the LMP to offer pupils the chance to attend concerts, participate in workshops, and even perform alongside professional musicians.
- **Professional Development:** I am looking forward to finding more training opportunities to continue developing as a music specialist. This includes building connections with other music specialists in nearby schools to share ideas and best practices, ensuring we're always delivering high-quality and innovative music education.

These plans aim to ensure that music at Rockmount remains exciting, inclusive, and enriching for every child, helping them develop their skills and a lifelong love of music.

## Further information (optional)

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.

Our local music hub is [Croydon Music and Arts](#) who have their own plan for music education in Croydon. Their website details the different workshops, lessons, groups and ensembles available in music and other performance and visual arts.