

Music development plan summary 2025/2026: *Knowle C Of E Primary Academy*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss N Wiltshire
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr B Bramhill
Name of local music hub	Solihull Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Heart of England Music

Our Vision

At Knowle CE Primary Academy, we recognise that music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. We encourage children to participate in a variety of engaging and inspiring musical experiences to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence and sense of achievement. Our teaching focuses on developing our pupils' ability to sing in tune as individuals and with others, with increasingly high expectations for performances as they progress through school. Children listen to, appraise and evaluate different forms of music, including the works of great composers and musicians, learning about the genre, structure and organisation. This enables them to develop a critical engagement with music and cultivate their own appreciation. We teach the essential building blocks such as pitch, tempo, texture and musical notation and develop skills in working with others to create and compose music. All children are actively encouraged and given the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, either using standard classroom instruments, within group instrumental programmes from specialist teachers or in individual instrumental lessons with expert, peripatetic tutors.

Part A: Curriculum music

Where are we now?

The 4 key concepts that drive learning across our Music Curriculum are 'Listening', 'History of music', 'Composing' and 'Performing' with 'the inter-related dimensions of music' threaded throughout all themes. From Reception to Year 6, we use (but are not bound by strictly following) the scheme of work provided by KAPOW, which is informed by the National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum. We have designed our Music curriculum to match (wherever possible) themes and topics in individual year groups. We have also linked teaching to our school 'SMILE' objectives and wider performances, which allow children to celebrate and worship through music. Regular, planned opportunities are built into our curriculum for children to showcase what they have learnt and to practise their skills. These include but are not limited to:

Nursery: Nativity to parents

Reception: Mother's Day service to parents and the local community

Year 1: Nativity Service

Year 2: Summer End of year performance, a singing performance to a local care home, a performance to parents and the local community at the end of their 'African Call and Response' unit of work

Year 3: Christmas Carol Service in Knowle Parish Church and a performance to parents and the local community at the end of their 'Mountains' unit of work to raise money for Oxfam

Year 4: Harvest Service in Knowle Parish Church

Year 5: Easter Service in Knowle Parish Church and a Ukulele performance to parents

Year 6: Leavers' Performance to parents, peers and the governors and a Leavers' Service in Knowle Parish Church.

Each individual lesson has content that is differentiated between and within year groups so that learning is age-appropriate and high expectations are maintained. Children use Music books to record their responses following listening and appraising activities, and also to document their composition notes including age-appropriate notation. During lesson time, teachers use questioning and provide opportunities for discussion to support the development of vocabulary which is explicitly taught and modelled by teachers as relevant. The children are exposed to a wide range of instruments through lessons and workshops. Year 5 have a term of whole class ensemble ukulele lessons through the Solihull Music Hub. Other year groups experience African Drumming (Djembe), Samba Drumming, Steel Pan Drums throughout the year.

Within the curriculum lessons, Year 1 – Year 5 are encouraged to use un-tuned percussion instruments and glockenspiels. Year 6 progress from glockenspiels to keyboards.

As part of their EYFS Curriculum and continuous provision, Nursery and Reception are encouraged to explore a range of instruments and the sounds they make (including their voices), supporting their development of sound for phonics. They also use songs to assist with a range of learning opportunities such as tidying up, lining up, learning the days of the week.

Our four key concepts are revisited frequently to make learning memorable, relevant and easy to retrieve. Links with our local community, in particular our local church, widen our children's real

performance experiences and ensure that they have access to inspirational people and a range of audiences. Our use of technology allows us to record and publish performances within and beyond the school community.

Teachers adapt music lessons for their individual pupils where appropriate, for example:

- Using ICT software to enable pupils to create compositions rather than relying on handwritten notation, e.g. Garage Band
- Children may need larger beaters to grip
- Children with hearing loss may find listening and appreciation tasks more challenging - follow normal protocol for when listening to videos ie. connecting Roger device to the interactive board. They may also find it hard to hear their groups' instruments during shared tasks and may benefit from being in a quieter environment to rehearse

Next Steps

- Ensure all students receive at least 6 hours of Music teaching per term.
- Develop music ensemble offerings in school
- Develop the knowledge of class teachers through CPD to ensure high-quality teaching and learning
- Consider ways to fund music within school
- A room to be made specifically for accessible instrument storage and peripatetic music lessons
- Apply for grants to fund musical instrument purchasing

Part B: Co-curricular music

Where are we now?

Each week, specialist music teachers from Solihull Music Hub deliver small group or 1:1 violin and guitar lessons, often finishing the year with a musical celebration to showcase their learning and inspiring other students to learn an instrument.

During collective worship, a music display encourages children to listen and appreciate music from various genres based on recommendations from the Model Music Curriculum, matching the entrance and exit music throughout the week. Weekly Hymn Practice enables the children to experience regularly singing as part of an ensemble as well as developing their spiritual understanding of music.

World Music Day is celebrated annually across school. Children are immersed in music throughout the day ranging from opportunities to play instruments, perform in front of the Key Stage and listen to and appraise a wide range of genres.

In the Autumn Term, children from year 4 – 6 can participate in the School Choir. The choir are given the opportunity to perform at the Parent Association's Christmas event.

Children are invited to sing in a choir organised by Knowle Parish Church with performance opportunities.

Next Steps:

- Develop the peripatetic music lesson offering through Solihull Music Hub
- Consider how the choir can develop further to perform at a wider range of events, e.g. Young Voices, Parent Association, Summer Fayre, Community Events
- A room to be made specifically for accessible instrument storage and peripatetic music lessons
- Develop music ensemble offerings in school

Part C: Musical experiences

Where are we now?

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Reception: Mother's Day service to parents and the local community

Year 1: Nativity Service

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Funding from the Parent Association has enabled children to experience a range of workshops including:

Reception and Year 1: CBSO Musical Storytime

Year 2: African Drumming

Year 3: Steelpan Drumming

Year 4: Samba Drumming

Next steps:

- Opportunities to take children outside of school to see musical performances, e.g. pantomime
- Engage in musical opportunities from Solihull Music Hub
- Bid for more money to fund workshops and experiences for the children
- Apply for grants to fund musical instrument purchasing
- Develop the use of live instruments in Collective Worship

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: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people/what-the-national-plan-for-music-education-means-for-children-and-young-people>

Solihull Music Service: <https://www.solihullmusic.org/>

Knowle C of E Primary Academy Music Curriculum page:
<https://www.knowle.solihull.sch.uk/page/?title=Music&pid=32>