



Music Development Plan

Mickleover Primary School



‘Every child should receive a great music education. Learning about music and having the opportunity to play musical instruments and make music together is a vital part of a rich and rounded education. Music plays a key role in brain development. It helps to develop language, motor skills, emotional intelligence and collaboration skills’ (Department for Education, 2024).

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	24/25, 25/26.
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Alana Moran
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Hub

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas:

- A. Music Curriculum
- B. Extra-curricular Music Opportunities
- C. Musical Experiences

This information is to help pupils and parents/carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils’ music education.

Part A: Music Curriculum

At Mickleover Primary School, our music curriculum is designed to foster a love for music while providing a holistic learning experience. Music should be an enjoyable experience for pupils and teachers. Children participate in a range of musical experiences, building up their confidence at the same time. They develop their understanding of rhythm and pitch and learn how music is structured, as well as learning technical vocabulary for these elements. As children’s confidence builds, they enjoy the performance aspect of music. Children experience listening to music from different cultures, eras and genres whilst also exploring different key composers from musical history and present.

Music Express

At Mickleover Primary School, we follow and deliver a music scheme which aligns with the Primary National Curriculum (2014). 'Music Express is an award-winning, cross-curricular primary music programme used by thousands of schools across the UK' (Music Express, 2024). Music Express is a scheme for both specialist and non-specialist music teachers to help deliver opportunities to explore musical skills, vocabulary and notation in depth.

Music Inclusivity at MPS

At Mickleover Primary, our music curriculum is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all students. We aim to deliver short bursts of music frequently rather than longer sessions. The use of visual aids play a crucial role in our teaching approach, with vibrant visuals displayed on interactive whiteboards to engage and support children of all learning styles. Recognising the diverse needs of our students, we provide ear defenders for those who may be sensitive to excessive noise, ensuring a comfortable and supportive learning environment for everyone. Additionally, teaching assistants (if available) are on hand to facilitate smaller focus groups, enabling individualised attention and support for children to fully participate and benefit from our music lessons.

Structure of Music at MPS

Music is taught from EYFS all the way through to Year 6. The duration of music sessions is dependent on other curriculum areas, but to stay in line the guidelines of the Model Music Curriculum, we aim to have 30 minute sessions in KS1 and 45 minute sessions in KS2 per week. This amount of music teaching also includes our designated weekly 15-minute singing assemblies led by Mrs Gerver. Music sessions within class will be structured based on Music Express lesson plans, with adaptations where necessary. In-class music sessions include a range of whole class singing, rhythm making, ensemble work, body percussion exploration, instrument play, pattern making and seeking. Currently, in Year 3, we offer whole class musical instrument tuition where the children learn how to play as an ensemble with the Handbells. There are future plans to increase the amount of whole class musical instrument tuition further for other year groups (see future plans). We currently work in partnership with the Derbyshire Music Hub and use their expertise and guidance to support our music curriculum here at MPS.

Part B: Extra-curricular Music Opportunities

At Mickleover Primary School, we pride ourselves on offering a diverse array of musical opportunities to our students, beyond the core curriculum. We recognise that engaging in music learning not only enriches lives but also plays a vital role in shaping individuals. Research shows that musical experiences during childhood can significantly boost brain development, especially enhancing language acquisition and reading skills (Brain and Creative Institute, 2016). By actively participating in music-related activities, our students not only nurture their musical

talents but also sharpen their cognitive abilities. From choir performances to instrumental lessons, our school provides a platform for students to explore their musical interests and talents.

Music Tuition

We pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of music tuition opportunities in partnership with the esteemed Derbyshire Music Hub. All our external music teachers hold accreditation through this partnership, ensuring the highest quality of music education for our students. Through these lessons, we aim to nurture a love for music and cultivate the musical talents of our pupils. Currently, our pupils can learn to play a variety of brass instruments, guitar, violin, and flute. In the past, we have also provided lessons for saxophone and oboe, broadening the musical horizons of our students. Children can express their interest for starting music lessons with Miss Moran (Music Opportunities Lead) but parents will need to complete the [online sign up form](#) to formally register interest. This will then ensure they are placed on a waiting list if all current available spaces are filled. All information about the pricing of lessons and instrument hire will become available to parents/carers once their child has been offered a place. Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium funding may be able to have subsidies to support the payment of lessons and instrument hire.

MPS Voices and Mini Voices

Our in-school choir programme consists of two ensemble singing groups: MPS Voices for KS2 students and Mini Voices for KS1 students. MPS Voices, which is an after-school free extra-curricular group, provides an inclusive and safe space for students to explore singing, performance and expression. We cover a wide range of genres, from musical theatre to modern pop, ensuring an engaging experience for all participants. Besides regular rehearsals, we showcase our talents in various school events, including Christmas concerts, Summer and Christmas fairs, singing competitions, assemblies and the end-of-year Summer Music Concert. Most importantly, we prioritise having fun while developing musical skills and building confidence in our young performers. Mini Voices takes place during school hours and introduces our younger students to school ensemble singing.



Part C: Musical Experiences

At Mickleover Primary School, we are proud to provide a diverse range of musical and performance opportunities for our students. In addition to participating in ensemble singing groups, pupils have the chance to showcase their talent at various events throughout the academic year. This includes performances at the end-of-year Summer Music Concert, celebration assemblies, Christmas Nativities and school musical productions in Year 4 and Year 6. Furthermore, students can also take part in external performances such as the Christmas concerts at Derby Cathedral and competitions held within the Derby area. These opportunities not only allow our students to develop their musical skills but also foster confidence and a sense of achievement through public performances.

Summer Music Concert

The Summer Music Concert is a highly anticipated event at our school, offering a platform for our talented musicians and MPS Voices members to showcase their dedication and hard work over the past year. This annual concert provides an opportunity for the students to perform individually or as part of a group, enabling them to choose pieces that showcase their musical abilities. It is a moment for our young performers to receive recognition and praise for the countless hours they have dedicated to practice their musical skills. The concert not only allows them to shine in front of the entire school community but also celebrates their commitment and hard work to their parents/carers, too.

Musical Productions

At MPS, Musical Productions play a significant role in the academic calendar, especially at the culmination of each phase. We start with our youngest learners in EYFS who showcase a singing filled Christmas performance. Year 2 dazzles the audience with a heart-warming Christmas Nativity performance, showcasing the innocence and joy of our youngest learners. Moving up to Year 4, students impress with a full-fledged Musical, displaying their growing talents and creativity. Finally, Year 6 takes the stage with an end-of-year leavers' production, marking their transition to secondary education with a memorable performance. These productions are not only for the school community but also for parents and carers, creating moments of pride and unity as we celebrate the artistic growth and achievements of our students.

In the future

At Mickleover Primary School, we understand that it is important to continue to raise the profile of music. Music not only fosters creativity and emotional intelligence but also nurtures critical thinking and teamwork skills (Department for Education, 2023). By continually elevating the prominence of music in our school, we are investing in the holistic development of our students.

Therefore, we aim to instil a lifelong appreciation for music in our students, nurturing a generation of well-rounded individuals ready for life outside of Mickleover Primary School.

In the future, we plan to foster and provide opportunities for the following:

- an in school Orchestra
- visits to live performances
- additional whole class instrumental teaching

In school Orchestra

An in-school orchestra plays a crucial role in a well-rounded education, providing students with valuable opportunities to learn how to play as a collective unit. By participating in an orchestra, young musicians develop essential teamwork, communication and listening skills that are transferable to various aspects of their lives. Furthermore, being part of an orchestra gives children the chance to showcase their talents in performances such as school assemblies or the summer concert, fostering a sense of achievement and boosting their confidence.

Visits to live performances

Witnessing live performances holds immense educational value for students beyond the confines of a classroom. Experiencing music being played live nurtures a deeper appreciation for artistic expression, fostering creativity and cultural understanding. Furthermore, live performances encourage active listening, critical thinking and emotional engagement, which are integral components of a well-rounded education.

Additional whole class instrumental teaching

Whole class instrumental learning plays a crucial role in providing students with an in-depth music education. Learning a musical instrument is not only a valuable skill but also fosters creativity and discipline. By engaging in whole class instrumental learning, students are able to share the learning journey with their peers, creating a supportive and collaborative environment. This approach helps to alleviate the pressure that individual instrumental learning can sometimes bring, allowing students to enjoy the process of making music together.

Further information

Other local music education organisations and contacts are listed below.

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. You can also find more information about music in schools through our music partner, [Derbyshire Music Hub](#). Here, you will find a range of resources, information and guidance on schools' musical learning journeys within Derbyshire.

Additionally, you can find more non-statutory guidance on the delivery of Music Education in schools through the [model music curriculum](#).