Music development plan summary: Ellison Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	25-26
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Connor Dowd
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ian Sterio
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Services
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Kapow Primary Rocksteady

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.

The music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom activities as well as our collective worship, various concerts and performances and the learning of instruments. Through the musical program offered by Kapow Primary (which is informed by the Model Music Curriculum - March 2021…),we are able to produce inclusive lessons for all children to access the musical curriculum in a fun and engaging way, further promoting a love of learning.

Class teachers deliver weekly music lessons following the Kapow Primary programme, designed specifically for the teaching of music in primary schools. Kapow lessons are planned in sequences to provide children with the opportunities to review, remember, deepen and apply their understanding. In the classroom, children learn how to play the glockenspiel and a variety of percussion instruments. Playing various instruments

enables children to use a range of methods to create notes, as well as an understanding of how to read basic music notation by the time they reach Year 4. They also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music.

Weekly assemblies are also used throughout the year to sing as a whole school, learn new songs and improve singing ability.

Through the Entrust Music Service, we have classroom visits from a music specialist in half-term blocks. Each child in the school will receive specialised music tuition for at least a half-term every year.

SEND

We strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music. Difficulties in one or more areas do not preclude them developing an interest or showing their talent in music.

Part B: Co-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.

We offer many opportunities for pupils to make additional progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Peripatetic music specialists are brought in through Entrust to offer a variety of instrumental lessons, which are available for all children and take place during lunchtime sessions - these include string, brass, woodwind and percussion. This ensures that a wider group of children can develop their musical interests and abilities by providing individual/small group lessons of 3 within school and in a cost-effective way. These lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are ‘Pupil Premium’, these lessons can be paid for by related Pupil Premium funding.

We are fortunate to work in partnership with Rocksteady, who offer parent-funded opportunities for children to play rock-oriented instruments; such as guitar, drums, keyboard and bass. This tuition is offered in a band-style setting which focuses on playing as part of an ensemble.

We are regular participants in the Young Voices program, in which children take part in an after-school club choir with the Music Lead and culminates in a performance at Manchester's Co-op Live venue.

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.

Throughout the year, all children at Ellison Primary have a range of opportunities to take part in musical performances:

- Services at St Andrews church include children and families
- Rocksteady pupils perform in a termly show in front of the school and family members
- Entrust pupils perform in an end of year show to the school.
- Year 5 act and perform with North West Drama each year to recreate a Shakespeare play
- Year 6 children participate in a leavers' assembly

All these opportunities for involvement range from singing and playing instruments to taking a role in the technical aspects of music within the performance. All children sing in weekly whole school assemblies.

Each year we are visited by different peripatetic teachers through Entrust, who bring along a selection of instruments to both entertain with an interactive performance, and to encourage children to think about taking up instrumental lessons in school

In the future

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

- Plan CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in singing/performing in the classroom and the delivery of the music curriculum, specifically with regard to the Kapow Primary Music Scheme.
- Further develop our singing with whole school songs.
- Encourage pupils to perform in school on a more regular basis.
- Further promote musical instrument teaching for individuals/small groups.
- Signpost ensemble opportunities outside our school community.