

Music development plan summary: Michaelchurch Escley Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2025
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Louise Crocker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Encore Enterprises
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.

Curriculum and Time Allocation

Children receive **weekly classroom music lessons of approximately 45 minutes**, alongside a **whole-school weekly singing assembly**. Music is embedded across the curriculum and features prominently in **celebration assemblies, class performances**, and **termly musical presentations**.

Our curriculum is structured to ensure coverage of the **Model Music Curriculum (March 2021)** and includes opportunities for composition, performance, listening, and appraisal. The Kapow scheme supports mixed-age teaching and is adapted to suit our small, rural setting.

Access and Inclusion

We are committed to inclusive music education. The Kapow scheme includes built-in adaptations for pupils with **SEND and disabilities**, and our small class sizes allow for personalised support. Music is used as a tool for communication and sensory engagement, particularly in EYFS and for pupils with additional needs.

Musical Opportunities

- Pupils learn to **sing regularly** and explore tuned and untuned percussion instruments.
- **Whole-class ensemble teaching** is embedded in the Kapow scheme, with opportunities to perform and compose.
- **Peripatetic lessons** are available for piano and recorder.
- Pupils perform in assemblies, seasonal events, and community celebrations.

Partnerships

We maintain informal links with local music educators and encourage staff development in music teaching. Our school community—including staff, governors, and parents—often collaborates musically to support performances and model musical engagement.

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.

Michaelchurch Escley Primary School offers pupils the opportunity to develop their musical skills beyond curriculum lessons through recorder and piano tuition. Pupils are encouraged to participate in group music-making through performances in assemblies, concerts and school events, where they can develop confidence and ensemble skills. Instrumental learners are supported to practise regularly at home and to perform publicly as they progress. The school works with external music providers and signposts families to opportunities available through local music organisations and the Herefordshire Music Service. We are committed to ensuring that all pupils can access musical opportunities and will support families experiencing financial barriers wherever possible. Through these experiences, pupils can develop their musical knowledge, performance skills and enjoyment of music throughout their time at school.

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 academic year, all pupils at Michaelchurch Escley Primary School take part in a wide range of musical experiences. Weekly singing assemblies provide regular opportunities for every child to develop their singing skills and enjoyment of music. Each class presents a performance assembly during the year, which may include singing, dancing and musical performances. Pupils are encouraged to share their talents through regular assembly performances, our school talent show and special events such as the Year 6 leavers' assembly.

Music plays a central role in whole-school celebrations. All pupils take part in the annual Christmas Nativity and our end-of-year whole-school production, which brings together pupils, staff, parents and former pupils, often performing alongside a live band. These events ensure that every child has the opportunity to perform for an audience during their time at the school.

To broaden pupils' musical experiences, the school organises annual trips to hear professional musicians perform and to participate in music workshops. All pupils also attend the annual pantomime, which includes live music and performance. These enrichment opportunities are provided free of charge or heavily subsidised by the school wherever possible. Support is available to ensure that no pupil is excluded from participating, with additional subsidies provided for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Through these varied musical experiences, every pupil has the opportunity to perform, listen, create and appreciate music, helping them to develop confidence, creativity and a lifelong enjoyment of the arts.

In the future

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

We are committed to continuing to develop our music provision. Planned improvements include exploring the introduction of guitar tuition, considering ways to increase curriculum music lessons to one hour per week, and seeking further opportunities for pupils to attend workshops, performances and musical events. We will continue to review and enhance our music offer to ensure all pupils have access to high-quality musical experiences.

Review – July 2026

- We have been thrilled with the range and quality of musical opportunities provided for pupils this year. All pupils benefited from consistent weekly music lessons and regular singing opportunities throughout the year, including songs linked to seasonal celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.
- A particular highlight was our end-of-year outdoor production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, which showcased the confidence and progress of our pupils. Many children who had previously been anxious or reluctant performers sang solo parts and performed brilliantly. Sapling Class also gave a successful class performance during the year.
- Pupils took part in a variety of musical events, including workshops and mini-concerts at the Hay Festival and Concerts for Craswall. The whole school attended a professional pantomime at The Courtyard, Hereford, in December 2025. Other musical experiences included our annual Talent Show, a Walking Nativity through Michaelchurch featuring singing and bell plate performances, a Key Stage 2 Carol Service in church and a Key Stage 1 Christmas Celebration in school.
- While we hoped to introduce guitar tuition this year, we were unfortunately unable to secure a suitable tutor due to our remote location. We will continue to explore opportunities to broaden our instrumental offer in the future.
- Overall, pupils enjoyed a rich and varied programme of musical experiences, with many opportunities to perform, listen, create and develop their confidence as musicians.