

Music development plan summary: Russell Lower

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Katherine Gallagher
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Inspiring Music https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

At Russell Lower School we follow the Model Music Curriculum. Each class has a timetable music lesson each week for up to 45 mins; Inspiring Music enrichment lessons are a duration of 1 hour.

Our music curriculum delivery is supported through the Charanga Musical School platform.

<https://charanga.com/site/musical-school/>

To support and enhance this we have specialist teachers from Inspiring Music to deliver whole class instrumental/choral lessons for a whole term to our Year 3 and 4 pupils. This varies each year. For the year 2025/26, Year 4 will receive Samba Drumming lessons each week in the Autumn term. This will culminate in a performance to parents.

We also have a weekly assembly where we focus on music appreciation, listening to music and singing.

We have been awarded the Music Mark Award Status in the past which celebrates schools who are committed to providing a high-quality music education.

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/about/>

Instrumental progression pathway – tuned percussion focus:
Year groups in class/Clubs/Music lessons:

Year Groups	In Class	Clubs	Music Lessons Available
EYFS	Untuned percussion in class		On Request
Year 1	Untuned percussion in class and glockenspiels in lessons		On Request
Year 2	Untuned percussion in class and glockenspiels in lessons		On Request
Year 3	Untuned percussion in class and glockenspiels in lessons		On Request
Year 4	Untuned percussion in class and glockenspiels in lessons Instrumental Superstars (Samba Drumming – Autumn Term)	Choir	On Request

We work closely with Inspiring Music Hub to support and develop classroom teachers' skills and confidence in delivering the Music curriculum.

<https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/>

Staff from the Inspiring Music team teach and support teachers to learn how to deliver high quality music lessons.

For the year 2025/26, Year 4 will receive Samba Drumming lessons each week in the autumn term. This will culminate in a performance to parents.

SEND support – all pupils are fully included in the music curriculum and it is an area where many pupils with SEND can access music lessons independently. Where needed peer support and adult support are given.

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 Russell Lower School we have visiting peripatetic instrumental teachers from Inspiring Music and pupils are learning a whole range of instruments from the drums, to violin and piano as well as many other instruments.

<https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/>

Pupils have opportunities to perform in music assemblies throughout the year. This is both to parents and the rest of the school.

We have a school choir for Year 4. They perform throughout the year in various places and to mark many occasions, including the Christmas Tree Festival at the church, The Children's Orchestra event in Ampthill, Carols in the Park, the care homes in the Autumn and Summer terms and also The Big Tent Weekend.

Local music making opportunities are promoted, including Saturday Morning Music centres. Pupils can hire instruments from the local music hub. Our local hub is Inspiring Music.

<https://www.inspiringmusic.co.uk/>

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.

Opportunities for visiting performers are encouraged and pupils have had opportunities to watch and listen to live performances.

We have visited the theatre (musical) every year at Christmas for nearly a decade. All children in school from Foundation Stage to Year 4 get this opportunity to experience a professional show.

All pupils perform (sing) in various performances across the year, such as the nativity at Christmas, the Year 2 performance or the Year 4 show and leavers' assembly. Where pupils have participated in Singing Superstars or Instrumental Superstars, there is a performance to parents and carers to showcase their learning. Our Year 4 choir attend and participate at the Christmas Tree Festival and Children's Orchestra event in Ampthill each June.

In the future

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

In the future we will continue to use the Inspiring Music Hub to support teacher skill development. We will be introducing a music technology element to our Year 4 children by using the Yumi software for a term looking at creating their own Hip-Hop music. In time, we hope to establish and develop children as music producers. We are considering how to promote music and performance during lunchtimes to

offer a broader range of activities for the children, beyond our traditional choir. We hope to work with Inspiring Music to offer Musical Theatre ensembles for example.

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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>