Music development plan summary: Manchester Communication Primary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	16.12.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	05.01.27
Name of the school music lead	Lindsay Stobinski
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Manchester Music Hub
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 Manchester Communication Primary Academy, we value music. Musical learning is about thinking and acting musically. Music lessons in school should be focussed on developing children's imagination and creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians.

Informed by the model music curriculum, our music curriculum sets out sequences of learning in the following key areas which, when taken together, all contribute towards the steadily increasing development of musicianship:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Performing/Instrumental Performance

We are embarking on a four-year strategic overhaul of our music curriculum, starting with the listening strand and systematically revising our singing, playing, and composing strands. Our listening curriculum introduces students, from Reception to Year 6, to listening strategies, vocabulary, and the context of classical, world, and contemporary music. By focusing initially on the listening strand, we aim to expose our students to a broad spectrum of music styles and instruments, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation and interest in music.

Our curriculum, outside of the listening strand, is centred around ‘Sing Up,’ a music-based scheme, ensuring the children are involved in activities which develop their skills of singing, playing, analysing, evaluating and composing. They also have an opportunity to develop an understanding of musical terms and notation.

Each Sing Up unit of work comprises the of strands of musical learning which correspond with the National Curriculum for music:

1. Musical Activities
   a. Warm-up Games
   b. Optional Flexible Games
   c. Singing
   d. Playing instruments
   e. Improvisation
   f. Composition
2. Performing

Through the Sing Up scheme, musical activities are based around a song and musical games embedded in the interrelated dimensions of music. Singing is at the heart of all of our musical learning, as well as playing instruments to accompany the song to be learnt (tuned/un-tuned classroom percussion). A sound-before-symbol approach is used but scores provide children with an understanding of notation. Throughout the Sing Up units, they improvise with the song, using voices and instruments and compose with the song using instruments.

- Performing and sharing happen throughout a Charanga unit with children working towards an end performance.

In our music teaching at Manchester Communication Primary Academy we:

- Ensure that children are introduced to a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres.
- Are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and take every opportunity to share our music-making with others in our locality.
- Aim to incorporate music into all areas of the curriculum as we understand its potential in contributing to the ‘whole’ child.

- Provide opportunities for as many children as possible to learn to play an instrument through RockSteady and One Education
- Allow children to express their feelings and emotions through music.
- Plan for children's good musical progression of knowledge and skills across the school using the National Curriculum, Sing Up Music Scheme and the Model Music Curriculum.
- Work collaboratively as whole a class, in the choir, or class group to evaluate and improve performances.
- Use digital software from CMPSR and Digit to compose our own music and develop music technology skills.

At the end of each unit of work, once they have composed and practised their piece, children are to perform their composition – either to one other person, a class, phase, whole school or within the local community. These performances will be saved to our assessment database and floor books, which are added to as they progress throughout the school.

Children's musical work should also be widely celebrated. Musical performance should be shared across phases and year groups, for children to enjoy and comment on. This will enable children to see how the skills they may currently be learning are being used. It will also give children the ability to recognise and celebrate the skills they have already learnt and how far they have progressed as musicians.

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.

KS2 Choir

The choir rehearses throughout the year, performing in school assemblies and other events in school, but we are also looking forward to finding opportunities to show off our skills outside of school as well, including Young Voices We welcome all children who would like to come along and sing with us!

When: Tuesday ESA 3:00-3:45
Who: Y3-6
Led by: Mrs. Sale
Cost: Free

Digital Music

We use CMPSR, Digit and BandLab to create a holistic digital music production experience for the children. CMPSR is accessible to all children, Digit creates materials for us to learn from and BandLab is a place that allows children to make and save their own music compositions.

When: Tuesday ESA 3:00-3:45
Who: Y5-6
Led by: Mrs. Stobinski
Cost: Free

Instrumental Tuition

As we are a recipient of the Restore the Music grant, we have invested in more instruments for our school. With the influx of new instruments we are able to offer musical tuition across a broader range of instruments.

When: Tuesday 11:00-12:00
Who: Year 4
What: Ukulele
Led by: One Education
Cost: Free to students

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.

Trips:

- Big Sing Year 5 2026
    - Led by a professional band, students will be singing and dancing to hits by your favourite artists, whilst finding out about its history and how it has influenced the music we listen to today.
- EYFS Musical Celebration 2025
    - The Manchester Music Hub run an annual Early Years Music Celebration at the Royal Northern College of Music where our students can sing along with other children from across Greater Manchester.
- Young Voices 2026 – Year 5 and 6 Choir
    - In February 2026 we will join a choir with up to 9,000 other young voices from all across the north, coming together in the Co-op arena to sing songs we will practise in choir.

- Sing Arounds - Years 2 and 4
    - Spring 2026, students from years 2 and 4 will meet up with other school children from Greater Manchester to take part in a celebration of singing.

- Wicked Worldwide Singalong - Whole school
    - In January 2026, all of our school will join in a world wide singalong with millions of students from all over the globe to sing the music from Wicked.

- English National Opera Finish This…
    - During our Spring term, years 3 and 5 will take part in the ENO's composition project 'Finish This'.

- Musical Mondays - Whole school
    - Each half term, our school will watch musicians form around the world demonstrate their musical talents as well as educating them on their culture and how they became a musician.

In addition, in school we will provide opportunities during our termly school fayres for musicians to show off their skills.

In the future

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

One of our goals is to engage more deeply with our local community and, eventually, the global community. We will participate in events such as Young Voices for Key Stage 2, The Big Sing for Year 5, and the Manchester Music Hub's EYFS singing celebration and sing arounds. We will also invite musicians from around the world to engage with our students via video, in-class visits, or online talks, educating them about careers in music and the potential benefits of a music education. In the future, we aim to establish a partnership with a school overseas to facilitate a musical exchange.

This year, we will also aim to expand our musical offerings in school. We will have both KS1 and 2 choirs, a digital music club and instrument tuition. Our choirs look forward to performing to our school each term and taking opportunities to show off to the community as well. As we are a recipient of the Restore the Music grant, we will offer increased musical tuition across school.

Finally, with our newly increased music tuition, we aspire to have our own school band. We view this year as a time to build our music knowledge across MCPA, engaging our children with music and the opportunities it can give them. Once we have built up our interest and skill, we look forward to creating a student band to perform in school and around the community.

Further information

We were the recipient of the Restore the Music Grant 2024. It delivers funding to non-fee-paying primary and secondary schools with the aim of giving every child access to musical instruments and tuition. With this grant, the school has been awarded the opportunity to invest in instruments for our children to aid in their weekly music lessons, as well as, musical tuition through Manchester Music Hib's One Education program.

MCPA is participating in the English National Opera's program Finish This…, which invites students to step into the role of an ENO Composer and respond to, and resolve, a purposefully unfinished operatic piece titled 'Blue, Red, Yellow…'. Immersing themselves into the Composer role, they will embrace their imaginations and experiment with music, colours and text, to create their own bespoke response ending – all through the lens of opera.

We promote One Education's free music clubs in Manchester for children ages 7 and up. Per One Education: "We want as many children and young people in Manchester to be inspired by their own creativity and increase their potential. Our music centres are open to all your pupils, irrespective of their previous musical experience. We have an enriching music activity programme so that your pupils can further develop their musical skills obtained in class or complement their learning by joining a band or choir.

More information on locations and types of clubs available each year may be found here: https://www.oneeducation.co.uk/teaching-learning/music-centres/