

Music development plan summary: Potter Street Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Natalie Duncan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kath Holland/Neil Gladwin
Name of local music hub	Essex Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music Sing Up

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

At Potter Street Academy, our music curriculum intends to inspire creativity, self-expression and encourages our children on their musical journeys as well as giving them opportunities to connect with others. We hope to foster a lifelong love of music by exposing them to diverse musical experiences and igniting a passion for music. By listening and responding to different musical styles, finding their voices as singers and performers and as composers, all will enable them to become confident, reflective musicians.

'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity'
(The National Curriculum)

The aims of our Music curriculum are to develop pupils who:

- Can sing and use their voices individually and in a group

- Create and compose music on their own and with others
- Use technology appropriately when composing
- Have opportunities to learn a musical instrument
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced, and communicated
- Listen to, review, and evaluate the work of great composers and musicians from a range of historical periods, genres, styles, and traditions
- Enjoy and have an appreciation of a range of different musical styles e.g., Classical, Jazz, Hip Hop, Pop, Rock etc.
- Use and understand musical language and include musical features in their own work
- Make judgements about the quality of music
- Have opportunities to play a wide variety of instruments
- Have different opportunities to take part in performances

The music curriculum is taught through the Sing Up Music scheme of work which is in line with the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum. Every year group have weekly lessons over a 3- or 6-week unit, with EYFS having 30-minute lessons, KS1 40 minutes and KS2 50 minutes. The Sing Up Music scheme of work ensures students sing, listen, play, perform, compose, improvise and evaluate. This is embedded in classroom activities as well as focussed singing assemblies – such as harvest, Christmas and special festivals, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the joining of extra-curricular activities. The elements of music are taught in classroom lessons so that children can use the language of music to discuss it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom students learn how to play various un-tuned and tuned percussion instruments and as a class learn how to play the ukulele by Essex musical services – normally in Year 4. In doing so they understand the different principles of creating notes, as well as how to devise and read their own musical scores and basic music notation. They also learn how to compose focussing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music. Composing or performing using body percussion, vocal sounds and technology is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument.

We also partner with Essex Music Services to support musical opportunities for our pupils through workshops and lessons.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Rocksteady Music - Rock Steady are an inclusive music provider that fits into the school day and routines. Children don't have an instrument loaned to practice on, there's no experience necessary and all instruments are provided, so it is inclusive and accessible. Children can choose from vocals, keyboard, drums, bass, or electric guitar (subject to availability). They'll join their bandmates for a weekly 30-minute lesson, where they'll learn some of their favourite songs. Children and family can proudly watch as bands perform in an end of term concert, showing how far they have come. Parents can follow their musical journey in your Backstage Account for regular updates on their progress and occasional photos or videos of them in lessons. The band leader will support and inspire child while making sure they progress at their own pace. Children will work towards an official, exam-free, Ofqual-regulated music qualification, with Trinity College London, at no extra cost and the longer a child stays with Rocksteady, the further they will progress!

Parents contribute the cost of tuition but there is one bursary space available for children at Potter Street which is allocated to a child showing a musical interest who might not have the means to try a musical club or activity. We currently have 27 children that take part, making up 5 bands. Of these 27 children there are 17 boys and 10 girls, 7 PPG children and 4 SEND children.

Choir – This opportunity is for children in Y3-6 to take part in weekly choir club. They will perform at the Young Voices concert every other year at the O2. The school subsidises the cost of taking part with families contributing towards the cost of t-shirts. Parents can choose if they wish to be a part of the audience.

On the opposite year the Choir have an opportunity to carol sing in the community and perform in a range of local events. All local events that take place are arranged and paid for by the school. The Choir also sing in a yearly Harlow Music Festival involving approximately 10 other primary schools in the town. Other opportunities to perform include carol singing, at the school fetes and in assemblies.

Ukulele lessons – Potter Street work with Essex Music services to have whole class instrumental tuition, in our Year 4 class. Essex Music Services provide the school with a trained peripatetic teacher to teach our children the Ukulele. The sessions take place in the school day and are held for 10 weeks in a term and there is no cost for the school. At the end of the sessions children showcase their learning to parents in a performance. We also have our own set of instruments, giving the pupils an opportunity to practise their skills, at school, in between lessons.

Essex Music Services – Pupils are able to access financial assistance from Essex Music Services for music lessons, instrument hire and county-led ensembles, through local Music Schools. They are also able to access instrumental tuition and ensemble activities outside of the school day through Essex Music Services. This information is sent out to parents termly.

We also access workshops through Essex Music Services through Looked After Children funding. This allowed us in 2024 to have a full day drumming workshop for the whole school. The children really enjoyed this opportunity, and we would look to do it again in 2024/25.

Royal Opera House Create & Learn – We have had the opportunity to work with the Royal Opera House on their Cultural Champions programme this year, giving middle leader training to arts leaders. As part of this programme, we were also able to access the ROH CPD programme of Create and Sing/Dance/Design, we had staff members take part in this CPD and then work with their children on these units of work, looking at Opera and Ballet. The children really enjoyed these units of work and was great to expose them to different kinds of experiences they wouldn't normally have access to.

Secondary school workshops – Through our trust secondary school, we have been able to offer African drumming workshops to a small group of children for the last few years. They do these sessions after school for a term, and then they take part in their Christmas concert.

Part C: Musical experiences

Pupils perform the following performances:

Choir – weekly practise for pupils in KS2, Young Voices concerts, Harlow Music Festival, Carol singing, singing at school events.

Class assemblies – Children get a chance to perform either singing or playing instruments in their class assemblies that happen once a year.

Singing Assemblies – Weekly singing assemblies take place for the whole school to sing a variety of songs together.

Music Sharing assemblies – Pupils get the chance once a year to share something that they have been learning in their music lessons in front of the rest of the school. This gives them a chance to perform in front of an audience.

Celebration assemblies – The whole school sing together every week to sing a celebration song as they come in to assembly.

Rocksteady – All Rocksteady members perform a termly concert to the whole school and parents to share what they have been doing in lessons.

Christmas Performances – Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3 take part in a Christmas performance each year.

Reception and Year 1 perform a Christmas nativity play to the whole school and parents.

Year 2 and 3 perform a carol concert performance parents.

Leavers assembly – Year 6 children rehearse and perform their leavers assembly every year. This is a mix of speaking, singing, performing and presenting. This is watched by the whole school and parents.

Year 4 Ukulele performance – Children share what they have learnt in their ukulele lessons to the school and parents.

Harvest festival – All children get the opportunity to perform in the Harvest Festival in school. This is either singing, performing or speaking (poems, readings etc)

Pupils watch the following performances:

Professional Pantomime – We have a Christmas Pantomime annually funded by the Friends of Potter Street. This is together with our trust partner school Potter Street Academy, and we watch it together at our trust secondary school Passmores.

Rocksteady – All children get the opportunity to watch the Rocksteady bands and leaders perform.

Dress rehearsals – All children get to watch dress rehearsals of other classes performances.

West End Show Trip – Children in Y2 get the opportunity to go on a trip to the West End and see a Musical (In 2024 this was Wicked). Parents are asked for voluntary contributions towards the costs.

Royal Opera House School Matinee – Year 2, 3 and 4 will be going to see a matinee performance of Cinderella at the Royal Opera House this year. The school applies for funding from ROH to reduce the cost of the tickets and subsidise any transport costs.

Secondary School Production – Year 5 go to our trust secondary school to watch their end of year production. They are not only able to experience some local theatre but get a look at opportunities they can have when they transition to secondary school.

Young Voices – At the Young Voices concert, not only do the choir get to perform at a world-class venue, but they also get the chance to experience a live band and singers. Some singers are well-known for example from Britain's Got Talent and the X Factor. They also get to watch these artists perform during rehearsal and the live concert.

In the future

Over the last few years our multi-academy trust has expanded to include more primary schools, meaning we have more opportunities to work together in the trust to develop music.

In the future we would like to:

- Continue to offer trips into London to experience live theatre and performances and look at how we can increase this offer to other year groups by lowering cost, for example travelling by train instead of coach.
- Keep the links with the Royal Opera House we have made this year, to continue to provide the Create and Learn programme into our curriculum.
- Look at starting a recorder/ukulele/guitar club with other staff members, especially to include KS1.
- Continue to work with Essex Music Services to access their workshops through LAC/PLAC funding.
- Look into how we can use our trust secondary schools (Passmores/Stewards) to offer some more G&T workshops and sessions to pupils.
- Work with our partner primary schools to start a trust music concert, where each school can share, and come together to perform pieces.