

Oxford Grove Primary School
Music Policy Statement
September 2026-2027

Justification

At Oxford Grove, we pride ourselves on the musical accomplishments of our children. Music is central to the community and culture of our school and is carried through many aspects of school life. All pupils, whatever their background or ability, have access to high-quality musical learning each week, building upon the **foundational knowledge** and skills developed in previous year groups. **Through our Oxford Grove Exceptional Teaching and Learning approach**, we aim to develop confident, creative and enthusiastic musicians who understand the value of music as a vehicle for self-expression, creativity and enjoyment.

Our music curriculum is coherently sequenced to develop children's musical knowledge, skills and understanding. Children learn musical vocabulary, notation, composers, musicians, genres, traditions and contexts, alongside developing their ability to listen, sing, perform, compose, improvise and evaluate. Through explicit modelling and purposeful practice, children develop a strong musical schema and increasingly apply their knowledge and skills with confidence, fluency and independence.

We recognise the importance of **executive functioning** in musical learning, including attention, working memory, sequencing and self-regulation. Clear routines, repetition, retrieval and carefully planned practice support children to develop increasing automaticity. Our approach **is inclusive and adaptive**, ensuring that all children, including pupils with SEND and those who experience barriers to learning, have equitable access to high-quality musical experiences and the support they need to participate, achieve and make progress.

We want our children to listen to a wide range of composers and musicians from different backgrounds, cultures and locations, enabling them to broaden their musical experiences and find role models who inspire them. We believe that fostering an appreciation of the creative expression of others helps children develop their own musical identity. As the National Curriculum states, 'Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. For many pupils, the music they love will be part of the narrative of their lives and bring colour to the experiences that shape them.' Children will leave Oxford Grove with a wealth of musical knowledge and a love of singing, performing, composing, listening and playing. This approach reflects the National Curriculum for music and the principles outlined in **Ofsted's Research review series: music (2021) and Striking the right note: the music subject report (2023)**.

Curriculum

1. The programmes of study of the National Curriculum for music will underpin teaching and learning, as well as updates from Ofsted's 'Striking the right note: the music subject report'.
2. Children will be taught to sing and use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
4. Children will learn to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and perform, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
5. All children will understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, pulse, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.
6. As pupils progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and listen to a wide range of music from their own cultural heritage and from other cultures.
7. Children will learn to evaluate a performance and share their views and ideas with confidence and consideration for others.

Teaching and Learning

1. Learn how to play tuned and untuned instruments, musically play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
2. Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.
3. Improvise and compose music for a range of purposes.

4. Learn how to listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
5. Learn how to pay attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.
6. Use and understand musical notations when appropriate.
8. Respond to and evaluate live performances and recorded music including their own and other children's performance and composition - as individuals, groups, class, key stage and whole school.

Achievement

All children will benefit from a high-quality music education which will engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. Adaptive teaching strategies will ensure that all children can access the music knowledge and skills needed to make progress in line with their own individual end points. It will increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As children progress, they will develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to listen to and enjoy a wide and rich range of music and express their views clearly and confidently. The Music Leader will regularly monitor lesson planning, teaching, assessments and children's work so as to provide Senior Leaders and governors with an evidenced based report on the success of Music provision across the school. Children will have a passion for music at Oxford Grove.

Inclusion:

Wider enhancement opportunities are very important at Oxford Grove. We consider our music clubs and further provision to be invaluable in offering children a chance to shine and take their passion to the next level. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a range of music clubs, instrumental/vocal lessons and music activities before and after school that support the timetabled whole class curriculum lessons. We currently have three differentiated choirs available to pupils across the school weekly, each ran by one of our music specialists. We also have wider opportunities brass sessions and drumming sessions held weekly by a music specialist.

Our choirs and instrumental ensembles are invited to take part in annual performance opportunities working with specialist professional musicians in high-profile music venues across the North West. In addition to this we encourage our children to perform at every opportunity with Brass and Djembe assemblies, Christmas shows and performances and Choir assemblies throughout the year.

We are very proud of our music provision at Oxford Grove and work closely our music specialists to deliver an outstanding provision in which adaptive teaching strategies play a key role in ensuring inclusion is at the heart of each and every lesson.

We have established partnership links with local organisations and participate in regular professional development opportunities to take an active role in the local music education hub.

Cross Curricular Links

Music is used to support the delivery of many other core curriculum subjects and various songs and chants are used to enhance and extend lessons across our curriculum. Through their study of various musicians and composers' children will make links to their learning in a range of foundation subjects.

Opportunities to develop Literacy skills during Music lessons will be made by using specific vocabulary and technical terms, alongside research of historical music and composers. Mathematical skills will be developed through the reading of sheet music, keeping beat and recognising musical patterns.

Planning and Curriculum Content

Oxford Grove's music curriculum is delivered in partnership with a range of different musical specialists who are trained in the planning and teaching of music. We work very closely with them to ensure our music provision is of the best quality we can provide.

To extend pupil development we also focus on a range of composers and musicians each year to promote a love of music and an understanding of music history. These have been chosen with careful consideration given to cultural diversity, ethnicity and gender which we feel is important for our culturally diverse school and ensures musical learning is inclusive and relevant.

All children take part in a whole class curriculum music lesson every week that is underpinned by a comprehensive methodology and sequential skills-based progression framework.

Assessment

Children demonstrate their ability in music in a variety of different ways. Assessment of the children's progression and quality of work will be undertaken by teachers, working in partnership with our music specialists, to make informal judgements as they observe and discuss with individuals, pairs and groups within the music lesson.

Lessons, assessments and medium-term plans are focussed on the exceptional teaching and learning points identified in the National Curriculum and the development matters document (EYFS). At the end of the year, the teacher, in conjunction with a music specialist will make a summary judgement about the work of each pupil.

These judgements will be recorded and the information used to track progress and set appropriate learning targets for individual/groups of children. Teachers will record the children's performance at the end of the unit, noting the children who are making outstanding progress.

Resources

The music leader will be responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of the music resources and will ensure that the instrument base is adequate to deliver the school's curriculum and that it is enhanced year-on-year.

Professional Development:

It is important to recognise any particular difficulties staff may have in delivering the curriculum and an annual review will determine any co-ordinator input or INSET which may be required. This will be done via a staff audit in confidence at the beginning of the academic year. This will be reviewed throughout the year to ensure staff are confident in the teaching and delivering of music.

Leadership and Governance:

It is the role of the music subject leader to monitor the quality of education across year groups in line with our whole school monitoring programme.

The subject leader will report to link governors at relevant points throughout the year.

Miss E Cowell

September 2026

This document will be reviewed annually by the Music Leader, Head teacher, staff and governors.

