Music Development Plan:
St Leonard's Primary School

At St Leonard's Primary School we aim for all our pupils to develop a life-long love of music, in a school with a musical atmosphere through a wide range of quality musical experiences which engage and inspire them. At the heart of the music curriculum are creativity, curiosity and excitement and children who are developing increased self-confidence, self-esteem and collaborative skills. We aim to build a curriculum with musical sound at the cornerstone with a progressive pathway for every child. Music opportunities will support children's mental health and allow them time to express their emotions.

Children will perform, listen and analyse critically, sing, improvise and compose music and understand the musical elements as building blocks within music.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Ceri Hannah
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above Caroline Debus
Name of local music hub	OCMS (Oxfordshire Music Service)
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

EYFS

In Early Years, music is delivered through holistic practice as an integral part of early development and that musical development matters. Music is planned for across the four musical areas: Hearing & Listening, Vocalising & Singing, Moving & Dancing, Exploring & Playing. Invitations to engage with sound are planned for every day and singing is integrated throughout the day. Each week there is a focused taught music session.

KS1 and KS2

Children are taught in mixed ability groups, and activities may be differentiated to support the children's needs. Teachers are not expected to plan themselves; they should use the units of work as outlined in the Long Term Plan and weekly plans from Kapow, unless they wish to utilise an alternative resource to support their units of work effectively.
Lessons are weekly, although some units may be blocked, if this enhances the delivery of the learning. In addition, children take part in a weekly singing worship that lasts for 20 minutes.

Throughout the Kapow programme, music continues to build learning in small, incremental steps. Pupils develop their playing with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. Listening develops aural analysis skills and memory. In addition, children develop an understanding of the history of music across a variety of genres by using the learning timeline to place and sequence pieces, spotting links between them and seeing the history of music develop.

Music leadership time allows for effective monitoring of the curriculum across the school.

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.

At St Leonard's, all children are given the opportunity to access free weekly group singing activities. Children in KS1 and KS2 have access to the school choir and Early Years have access to singing club. Both clubs are led by classroom teachers who have a passion for the Arts.
As well as this, we offer peripatetic lessons in guitar and strings by a visiting specialist teacher, as well as in a band set-up with Rocksteady music lessons.
Teaching staff provide a weekly singing assembly that includes the whole school. There is also a focus on the mental health and wellbeing of the children during these sessions.

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.

These events include:

- All children are given musical experiences throughout the year and consistently receive a whole school singing assembly.
- Children in Early years and KS1 have the opportunity to perform a Nativity play, LKS2 a musical at Easter and UKS2 a musical during term 6.
- Children also have opportunities to sing and perform in class assemblies.
- Children are encouraged to participate in the North Oxfordshire vocal group.
- We made connections with The Hill Community Centre in Banbury; with funding from Cherwell D.C. and support from the Community Albums organisation, we set up a collaborative project in which a group of 10 children used the recording studio, developing their skills, confidence and love of music.
- We are a part of an annual local event called 'Children singing for children', raising money for children in need across the world.

- We organise theatre trips for children as well as inviting theatre companies into school.
- Peripatetic music lessons are charged by the visiting teachers.

In the future

This is what the school is planning for subsequent years:

- To maintain musical links with the community and make new links when opportunities arise.
- Continue to run and support the peripatetic music provision and look at overall impact (This will also include any in-school, extra-curricular music).
- Continue to look for affordable opportunities for children to experience live music performances and make ties with a secondary school to arrange activities, e.g. workshops.
- Maximise benefits of whole-school singing worship, with teachers and teaching assistants feeling confident to support and participate.
- Evaluate the music curriculum and resources, adapting and supporting, where necessary, based on feedback from staff and pupil voice.
- Continue to be active members of the Music partnership in Oxfordshire, attending termly meetings.