



THE  
**GORDON  
CHILDREN'S**  
ACADEMY

# MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024-2025

**Gordon Children's Academy**

Part of Thinking School's Academy Trust

Date of determination: April 2021



CHILD FIRST - ASPIRE - CHALLENGE - ACHIEVE



# Gordon Children's Academy

## Music Development Plan Summary

At The Gordon Children's Academy, our vision is for all children to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together. We do this through providing a broad musical culture which allows children to engage in a range of experiences both inside and outside of school.

This means that all children:

- Engage in timetabled curriculum music lesson at least one hour each week
- Have access to expertise for a range of instruments, and voice
- Have access to a school choir or vocal ensemble
- Have access to school ensemble, band or group
- Engage in rehearsals and individual practice
- Have access to a termly school performance
- Be given the opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year
- Be given the opportunity to perform in live performances throughout the school year
- Contribute to trust wide events yearly

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss A Stuckey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss R Lamb
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	iRock School of Music



## Part A: Curriculum music

At The Gordon Children's Academy, we use Charanga's Model Music Curriculum for all of our music lessons. This scheme is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) Guidance published by the DfE in 2021.

This Scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson.

The Scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.

The MMC Scheme is suitable for children aged 5-11, with six self-sufficient units per year. Each unit is structured into six steps. The first step of each unit introduces that unit's focus in terms of content, skills and knowledge; the middle steps then develop this, and the final, sixth step assesses the learning through exciting performances and activities.

At the centre of each step – each lesson – is a song around which the musical learning is centred. Each lesson has an easy-to-follow structure, complemented by an array of supporting documents, lesson plans and resources that take you through listening, singing, performing, composing and improvising exercises with the children.

## Part B: Co-curricula music

At The Gordon Children's Academy as well as the music curriculum that is taught weekly, we have a wide range of opportunities for children to have music tuition from experts. We work in partnership with Kent Music who provide lessons in Cello, Keyboards and Ukulele. The children are taught one-to-one and in small groups for both Cello and Keyboards and can choose to learn these at any age. Ukulele is taught to the whole class once children are in Year 3.



Each year children perform what they have learnt to an audience in school and at some school events.

Alongside this we have a company called iRock School of Music who allow children of any age to experience life in a rock or pop band. Under the guidance of an iRock music teacher, children rehearse weekly in the lead up to end of term concerts. Once part of the band children can choose to be a singer or learn to play one of the instruments on offer.

We have an active school choir in both the infants and the juniors that meet weekly. All children have the opportunity to join our choir and be part of the external and internal performances that we hold.

Both choirs attend the Medway Music Festivals each year where they have the opportunity to perform with children of similar ages from other local schools. The children that attend the junior choir also have the opportunity to take part in young voices choir which is held yearly at the O2 in London This gives our children the opportunity to perform to a much wider audience with thousands of other children from school across the country.

We ensure that where there are costs to any such events or musical experiences, we subsidise payments to allow opportunities for all children to widen their cultural capital.

## Part C: Musical performances

Over the coming year we will continue to offer all of the same experiences as previous years, ensuring that we have considered subsidised and or free tuition where necessary.

The choir will attend both the Medway Music Festival as well as young voices. We will also be looking at joining the Commonwealth Music Relay this year. This aims to carry the selected beautiful piece of music around the Commonwealth, much like a relay baton. Young musicians and composers in each participating country will have the opportunity to build upon the original melody and lyrics, creating their own versions that reflect the rich diversity of our Commonwealth community. The final version of the 'Symphony' music piece, enriched by the creative contributions of young talents from across the Commonwealth, will be presented at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government in Samoa in October 2024.



All children whether playing an instrument, singing, or in a rock or pop band will get the chance to widen the audiences that they perform to this year. We will be showcasing the musical talents throughout the school across all year groups with performances taking place termly. Children will have specific time to rehearse and practice and will be allocated spaces to perform at our school events including the summer and Christmas fayres, and the 125-year celebration.

## In the future

At The Gordon Children's Academy, we believe that all children, regardless of background, should have access to a high-quality music education. To ensure this happens we are committed to delivering high quality classroom teaching, embedding the high standards set by the national curriculum, as exemplified by the Model Music Curriculum.

Through our music development plan, we will continue to engage with the partnerships that we have built, and look to further increase the offer that we currently have to allow for all children to experience music and performances in a variety of events.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we work collaboratively with the schools across our trust to share talents and musical experts. As we develop, we will build on the links we have and look for further opportunities to share performances with them and use the facilities they have to offer. The strong links will allow us to share children's musical talents as they transition from Primary to Secondary and promote the continuation of their music education.