

Intent

Music at Christ Church embodies our vision of *life in all its fullness* and we recognise the important contribution music in general makes to everyone's lives. We feel all children are entitled to a high-quality, inclusive music curriculum from the moment they join our school. This will hopefully instil a life-long love of music which can be a useful vehicle for self-expression.

Our skills progression aims to build children's knowledge and understanding of music theory throughout the school. Alongside this, our carefully mapped out content strives to widen the children's musical repertoire as they move through our school and seeks to enculture them.



As the children enter key stage two, we endeavour to introduce the children to a tuned instrument which they have the opportunity to learn over a number of years. We hope, through this exposure, that children will choose to continue learning an instrument throughout their school life, although we recognise many will not choose to do so.

We feel that it is our responsibility to provide children with occasions when they can perform individually and as groups to help build confidence and self-esteem as well receiving feedback from a live performance, which can be a powerful motivator.


Our aim is to provide a breadth of wider opportunities in music alongside our curriculum offer so that children have the necessary cultural capital to prepare them for future success and participation in diverse and unique communities. Music can be a way of communicating with people around the world through a shared, universal language.

Implementation

- Music is taught by a music specialist to ensure children have access to high-quality teaching and learning. Specialist music teaching increased and has been maintained at two days per week from September 2022, signalling the school's commitment to high quality music teaching.
- Despite being taught by a specialist, music is given high-priority and status by all teaching staff and members of SLT because of the recognisable benefits and contributions afforded by this curriculum area. Class teachers regularly attend and support in music lessons to provide CPD and ensure that they are fully involved in their class music learning.
- Each class has a weekly music appreciation and singing session focusing on listening to, appraising and responding to a diverse range of music and a weekly 'studio' session focusing on ensemble performance and composition skills.
- Summative assessment in music is closely linked to the progression of skills to ensure we are always driving standards forward year upon year.
- Music has a dedicated teaching space where all resources are stored. The space is versatile enough to allow for group work, playing instruments and standing to sing (which allows good posture and correct use of the diaphragm). Friends Association (PTA) fundraising in Summer 2022 enabled the purchase of additional musical instruments and equipment including microphones, amps, guitars, drums and music software, and there is ongoing purchasing of new resources each year.
- There is a strong tradition of providing a variety of excellent wider opportunities, for example, choir (open to all KS2 children), after school music clubs, individual music tuition, class instrumental tuition (Y2-4 whole class recorder lessons) and more.
- There are a range of planned music performance opportunities including termly music assemblies where children can perform on their instruments, choir performances in church services and other school events, class assemblies and an annual music 'performance in the playground'.
- Music often features heavily in our twice-yearly Christ Church Arts Projects (CAP) where children are given fantastic opportunities to perform to different audiences, meet and work with experienced musicians and be exposed to the spiritual moments this can provide.
- Strong curriculum links are routinely made, using singing/music as way of consolidating learning and spaced retrieval in other areas of the curriculum. Each termly class assembly contains a song, performed to a high-standard, about another area of the curriculum.



- The school maintains strong links with the Camden Music Service who are supportive and fantastic music advocates and facilitate a range of opportunities for music making and performance with groups of children from local schools.

- Children enjoy their music sessions and show great enthusiasm when talking about the subject area.
 - Cumulative building of musical theory and practical skills: children are able to transfer prior knowledge and make links.
 - Sense of belonging through performing as a group as well as spiritual development.
 - All children participate in high-quality performances, developing rehearsal and group work skills, as well as a sense of pride in their performance.
 - Positive impact on wider skills, such as listening carefully, teamwork, collaboration, celebration of the achievement of others.
 - Music supports in building children's confidence, self-esteem and encourages risk taking.
 - Music provides an opportunity for more creative children to shine in a creative subject area.
 - Music is an integral part of life at Christ Church School.
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- A photograph showing a group of children, likely a choir or performance group, standing in a line and singing or performing. They are wearing red robes. The setting is a large, ornate hall with high ceilings and decorative architectural details, possibly a school hall or a large church. The lighting is warm and focused on the performers.

Whole School standards – three-year trend

Last year's key developments and successes in 2024/25 (taken from last academic year's music development plan):



1. To increase opportunities for pupils to rehearse, practise and improve music in small groups (specifically KS2).

Intended outcome: Children will be able to rehearse and refine short musical pieces in small groups, demonstrating improved accuracy, timing and ensemble awareness.

24/25 target achieved: An additional adult, alongside the specialist music teacher, was prioritised for KS2 music sessions to allow children to practise in smaller groups. This allowed children to learn their different parts for the whole class band song each term with a focus on accuracy, timing and ensemble awareness. KS2 children successfully performed as a class band in the summer term performance in the playground which involved every child participating on various different instruments. On the occasion that an adult was not scheduled to be in a session but was needed, the specialist music teacher would request one and this would be accommodated.

2. To sustain high-quality singing and musicianship through regular practice, rehearsal and performance opportunities embedded in the school year.

Intended outcome: High standards of singing and musicianship are sustained across all year groups through regular rehearsal and performance opportunities (potential CAP) embedded throughout the school year.

24/25 target achieved: In addition to all the class singing (including singing in parts for class assemblies and class band performances) we were able to expand our whole school repertoire over the course of the year. Impressively, as a whole school, the children tackled challenging songs with different singing parts - which is another opportunity outside music lessons for children to develop key singing skills. The children were then able to perform these songs (such as Something Inside So Strong, Love Can Build a Bridge, Love Shine a Light etc.) as part of our CAP project (Christ Church Arts Project) where they became the backing tracks for the school's vision and values films we produced and have published on our website.

3. To make links with organisations in order to expose children to professional musicians and further live performances.

Intended outcome: Pupils engage meaningfully with live music and professional musicians, developing deeper musical understanding and appreciation.

24/25 target achieved: A real highlight for children and adults in our school was having experienced, professional musicians come into school and regularly perform as part of our partnership with Apollo Music. Children in year five and year six were able to sit and listen to a string quartet play Dvorak and Handel (amongst many other pieces), a brass quartet and a woodwind quartet over seven visits to school. The children were able to learn about each instrument and listen to how they worked together to play as a quartet. They also learnt about the role of the conductor before they went to different venues across London to hear a Chamber Orchestra and a Symphony Orchestra. This partnership will be developed and built on in 25/26.

Other successful events and developments in 2024-25

Whole School Music Performance

In the summer term, every child in the school took part in a music performance in our playground. The children performed as a class group and had the opportunity to share some of their learning from their music lessons. As each year group performed, you were able to see the clear progression in music from Reception through to Year 6. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed songs in unison with actions, there were also a number of children in each of these year groups who accompanied the singing on instruments. Impressively, this included reception and the number of children in the accompanying ensemble grew throughout these year groups. Key Stage 2 classes performed as a class band with every child playing an instrument and singing with children also having the option of playing their own instrument which they may be learning outside school. The whole school performed two songs, Build Up and Something Inside So Strong, with the latter being performed in two parts. Key stage 2 children also sang Love Can Build a Bridge in two-part harmony.

altogether. It was really great to see so many families come to watch the performance; it gave the children a real purpose for the performance and they certainly rose to the occasion.

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Performance-in-Playground-June-2025.pdf>

CAP Project

Our spring Christ Church Arts Project (CAP) focused on making films that show our school vision and values. As part of these films, we decided to use the children's singing as backing tracks. The children sang a variety of different songs in unison and in different parts, predominantly as a whole school ensemble. They sounded amazing behind the films and helped to demonstrate the positive contribution music can make (in terms of evoking different emotions) when matched with the correct type of film/visual stimulus. The other interesting thing that came from using the children's singing for these films is that they were introduced (as a whole school) to how audio is recorded. The company we worked with showed the children the different equipment they were using to capture the children's singing and how sensitive it can be. In some cases, we needed several takes due to the sensitivity of the microphones and the other noises around our school which couldn't be controlled outside a professional recording studio. It was a real learning experience for all of us and it allowed us to showcase the exceptional singing which takes place in our school as part of our rich curriculum.

[Our Christian vision and values films – Christ Church School](#)



Apollo Music

We were very pleased to make links with Apollo Music who bring live classical music to schools. The programme consists of six in school sessions where a string quartet, brass quartet and woodwind quartet come into school and play for the children. As part of this, they discuss the music and instruments played which is why the groups of children in attendance are limited to one class. The children typically go to Regent's Hall to watch a chamber orchestra perform. Then towards the end of the project, the children have a 30 minute talk with the conductor of the symphony orchestra which they also go off-site to watch perform. Our work with Apollo music has not only supported the delivery of our music curriculum but it has enriched it too by giving children sustained access to live professional music which has strengthened children's ability to listen to and appraise music as well as developing their musical vocabulary.

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Y4-and-Y5-Apollo-Music-workshops-1.pdf>

Camden Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall

Every two years the Camden Music Festival is held in the evening at the Royal Albert Hall. Children (mainly school choirs) from across Camden's primary, secondary and special schools performed as a mass choir in this amazing venue – such an opportunity! Our school choir of 30 children were one of those choirs and performed alongside 51 schools who performed a total of 16 pieces of music (many in different parts) between them. All the audience seats were filled in the hall with proud family members and friends; the performance was a real success

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Camden-Music-Festival-April-2025.pdf>



Music Assemblies and Summer Serenade

In each of the autumn and spring terms roughly 25 children have the opportunity to perform a musical piece in a special assembly which parents can come and watch. It provides the children with an important opportunity to perform a musical piece of their choice regardless of their level of musical accomplishment on an instrument. We also hope that other children who don't play an instrument are inspired by their peers and may hopefully choose to learn an instrument themselves. There is also a summer serenade which takes place in the evening during the summer term which is slightly more formal. All

these events are really important events in our academic year and provide children who may find other areas of the curriculum challenging a chance to shine.

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Summer-Serenade-July-2025.pdf>

Key targets and actions moving forward (development priorities for 2025/26 and beyond)

Target and <i>intended outcome</i>	Planned actions (including dates where applicable)
<p>1. Review and refine Christ Church curriculum where needed in light of the government's Curriculum and Assessment Review</p> <p><i>Intended outcome: Christ Church curriculum aligns with national curriculum and other statutory guidance.</i></p>	<p>The government Curriculum and Assessment review was published in November 2025. It details plans to change some curriculum content to increase the quality of musical education and improve equity of access. The changes will involve revisiting the purpose and aims, ensuring that they better reflect intended outcomes. Further specificity will be added, without increasing volume, to clarify how pupils should progress in the three pillars of musical understanding (technical, constructive and expressive), and to ensure that a range of genres and repertoires can be covered.</p> <p>The subject leaders will keep up to date with any additional documentation that contains detail about future changes to the curriculum.</p>
<p>2. Capitalise on connections with professional musicians to provide further exposure for a wider number of children to high-quality, live music.</p> <p><i>Intended outcome: The Ofsted Subject Report highlights that "exceptional provision included opportunities for pupils to hear and work with live musicians, regularly." This has always been an aim and strength at Christ Church, however, our intention is to expose more younger children to live music to help inspire them and evoke an interest/desire to be musical at an earlier age.</i></p>	<p>We will maintain our current connection with Apollo Music and widen the groups of children taking part in the sessions. There are plans for Apollo Music to deliver whole school assemblies throughout the year, as well as Key Stage 1 having their own sessions in addition to the Year 3 and 4 sessions that are continuing from last year. This will require negotiation and support with current connections since their current structure is set, tried and tested – it would be a new venture for them. There are also planned trips for Key Stage 2 children to watch a chamber orchestra performance. The subject leader will keep up to date with the Camden Music Bulletin to organise any additional events and trips.</p>
<p>3. To continue to expand our high-quality, whole school singing repertoire while continuing to practise and maintain our current, effective repertoire.</p> <p><i>Intended outcome: Continue to support highly-effective delivery of the following curriculum strands for children across the school, in particular:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - singing and vocal work: (e.g. sing songs from memory, adjust singing volume and tempo, two-part singing, using voices expressively) - performance (e.g. perform for an audience) 	<p>Children will have the opportunity to perform as a whole school in our music performance on the playground in the summer. Throughout the year, we will build on our whole school singing repertoire during assemblies. Time will need to be dedicated in the timetable to practising singing songs with multiple parts together as a whole school. Time will also need to be spent during music lessons with our specialist music teacher for Key Stage 2 children to learn different parts to songs and harmonies.</p>
<p>4. To provide professional development for teachers by ensuring they, as far as is practically possible, attend music sessions with the specialist music teacher and actively participate.</p> <p><i>Intended outcome: Teachers will be able to support the delivery of the curriculum, further develop their knowledge of the music curriculum, support assessment in music, act as positive role models for the children.</i></p>	<p>The subject leader will share this target with class teachers in a staff meeting and speak about the importance of class teachers attending and actively participate in music lessons. For our music performance on the playground in the summer, class teachers will take an active role in the performances, utilising the teachers' musical talents. This might involve singing with the children or playing instruments alongside them.</p>



Ofsted Research Review and Subject Report

The **Ofsted curriculum research review** for Music (July 2021) reviewed a wide range of relevant educational research into both primary and secondary music teaching. Key points are highlighted in the Autumn 2022 music subject leader report.

The **Ofsted subject report** for Music (September 2023) entitled 'Striking the right note' provided a distilled version of the research review alongside an exploration of common strengths and weaknesses of Music (both primary and secondary) across the country. We continue to engage with DfE documents including the **Model Music Curriculum** (March 2021) and have used the **School music development plan** (May 2024) to inform our music curriculum and planning.

Professional development and links outside the school

Specialist music teacher development – Our music specialist (and music subject leaders) benefit from strong links with the Camden Music Service and has access to the subject leader networks they organise, the information/newsletter sent out and their visits to support specific projects (e.g. supporting teaching the choir for the Royal Albert Hall). Other links are forged with various other music specialists which help contribute to the professional development of our music specialist, for example, projects with the English National Opera and Apollo Music – both have taken place this academic year. We also subscribe to various different music resources which also provide appropriate professional development for our music specialist.

Non-specialist music staff development – Staff have benefited from being part of whole school singing, watching how songs are taught to children in different parts and then brought together effectively. A variety of different members of staff have been present in music lessons and are encouraged to actively participate – this needs to be further capitalised on and expanded moving forward due to its positive impact on staff development.

Outreach – As part of our work to strengthen primary curriculum leadership across Camden, we supported another Camden school with their music curriculum.

Work Sampling – Curriculum Learning:

Please see the news and events tab of our website to see photo pages which include our music provision (the links are included below). When this report is discussed with governors, the music leader will also share archived videos of the children engaging in music sessions.



Autumn 2024

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Music-assembly-October-2024.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Nativity-December-2024.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Carol-singing-December-2024.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Pantomime-December-2024.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Royal-Free-Hospital-Carol-Singing-December-2024.pdf>

Spring 2025

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Music-assembly-January-2025.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Young-Shakespeare-performance-February-2025.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Camden-Music-Festival-April-2025.pdf>

Summer 2025

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Y1-and-Y2-Theatre-trip-April-2025.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Y4-and-Y5-Apollo-Music-workshops-1.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Performance-in-Playground-June-2025.pdf>

<https://christchurchschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Summer-Serenade-July-2025.pdf>

Pupil voice:

Through our most recent pupil voice sessions involving the whole school (Autumn 2024), children speak very positively about music.

Children could identify and talk about their recent learning in music lessons:

Y1 pupil: *We've been learning the Che Che Kule song.*

Y2 pupil: *We have been singing a song called Tue Tue.*

Y4 pupil: *We are learning to play 'Shotgun' by George Ezra. We have been playing the song using different instruments, including the bass guitar, drums and some people are singing.*

Y5 pupil: *We are learning to play 'I got a feeling' using different instruments.*

Y6 pupil: *We have been composing our own pieces.*



Children could talk about and compare a range of musicians and composers they have learnt about:

Y2 pupil: *We listen to lots of different musicians and composers in assemblies. I can remember 'The Carnival of the Animals' by Saint-Saëns.*

Y3 pupil: *I can remember the composer Debussy and the singer George Ezra. George Ezra's song has a faster tempo than Debussy.*

Y5 pupil: *Mozart was an Austrian composer who lived about 150 years ago. We are learning about the musician Will.I.am now and I can remember the singer Adele from the music performance on the playground last year.*

Children could talk about how they are supported to remember what they have learnt in music:

Y2 pupil – *We listen to songs lots of times in music to help us remember them.*

Y3 pupil – *We work in groups and then perform all together.*

Y4 pupil – *We learnt a song in music to help us remember about pitch and rhythm.*

Y6 pupil – *The same songs are taught every year so we hear the songs again when children in younger year groups sing them in assemblies or perform in music performances.*



Children talked about their enjoyment and learning from the range of music enrichment activities:

Y2 pupil – *I really liked learning the songs for our Nativity performance.*

Y3 pupil – *I am in the school choir and we do performances. I enjoyed singing Christmas carols at the Royal Free Hospital.* Y4 pupil – *I go to Music Technology club after-school and we make our own music on the iPads.*

Y5 – *We have the chance to perform our instruments in music assemblies each term and the summer serenade. I go to Music lessons after school (piano).*

Y6 – *Last year we put on a whole school production of Joseph for CAP.*



What makes our curriculum provision for Music exceptional and beyond the expected?

- Enrichment opportunities provided by Christ Church Arts Project (CAP) – Our Spring 2025 CAP project highlighted the high-level of attainment of all pupils and the high-expectations of our curriculum. Parental response and feedback was incredible. It really highlighted the power of music in terms of bringing people together.
- Children work collaboratively in lessons to produce high-quality music which involves a high level of skills, for example, listening to each other and adapting how to play. Children in KS2 play as a class ensemble with every child playing an instrument.
- Sense of achievement and opportunities to perform – builds confidence (wider curriculum skills, including for pupils with individual needs)
- It inspires children and shows that every child can be a musician
- Excellent musical role models to aspire to
- Access to music – a rich and broad curriculum, individual music lessons, separate wider opportunities, clubs, music hub events, assembly timeline of artists and composers, singing in class assemblies (often about other subject areas), watching various performers/performances
- Access to an active and supportive music hub who support the delivery of the curriculum and promote diversity in the repertoires they ask the children to learn