

# Music development plan summary: Nishkam Primary School Birmingham

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Carolyn Cooke
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	The Birmingham Music Education Hub (Led by Service for Education)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

The intention of the music curriculum is first and foremost to help children to feel that they are musical, and to develop a life-long love of music. The school's music curriculum focuses on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to become confident performers, composers and listeners. It is aligned with our Trust vision by being ambitious, aiming for all children to reach for excellence and introducing children to music from across the world (and generations) to teach children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions, communities and faith backgrounds.

The school believes that all children can and will achieve across all subjects regardless of their background, disposition and additional needs. All pupils partake in our music

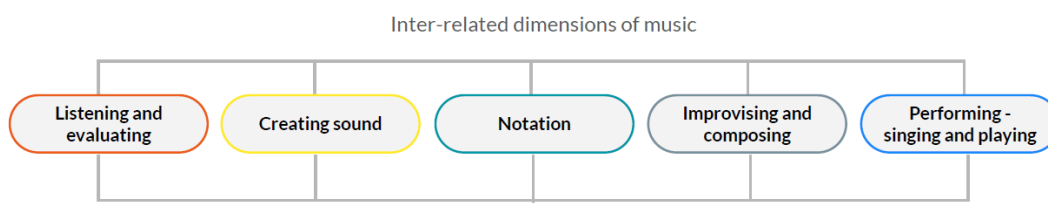
curriculum and experiences. Where necessary, reasonable adjustments are made to ensure the full curriculum and enrichment offer is accessible to all.

The school's music curriculum offer is informed by [The Power of Music to Change Lives](#) guidance. We teach music weekly across all year groups, including Reception. From Year 1, music is taught for 1 hour a week.

The music curriculum is a combination of the Kapow Music scheme and Instrumental lessons. A curriculum overview can be located here:

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsb/education/curriculum-overview/curriculum-maps>

The Kapow scheme of work is fully aligned to the National Curriculum, [The Power of Music to Save Lives](#) and the [model music curriculum](#). The Kapow music scheme is organised as follows:



The inter-related dimensions of music, sometimes known as the elements of music, are the building blocks of music and therefore run throughout our scheme of work as an overarching strand. Each element is progressive and is set out in the progression of knowledge and skills document located on the school website here:

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsb/education/curriculum-overview/progression-documents>

Pupils develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and untuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music. They develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and learn how music can be written down (eg graphic scores and notation).

This scheme is based on a spiral curriculum, which means key knowledge and skills are continuously revisited and built upon throughout units. Where necessary, teachers skilfully adapt lessons to meet the needs of all pupils.

Through music, the curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as collaboration, leadership, creativity, problem-solving, decision making and presentation/performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

### **Instrumental Lessons:**

In Key Stage 2 (KS2), pupils also learn classical Indian Instruments:

Year 3 and Year 4 pupils learn Jori –

The Jori consists of two drums which are played with your hands.

Year 5 and 6 pupils learn Dilruba –

The Dilruba is an Indian stringed instrument played with a bow.

The instruments are taught by an external classical Indian instrumental specialist. Lessons are 30mins and contribute to the 1 hour of music a week for KS2. For the remaining 30mins, the Kapow music scheme is delivered by a class teacher. The instrumental lessons teaches instrument technique as well as reinforcing the skills and knowledge of the inter-related dimensions of music throughout performing, listening and composing. During this lesson, pupils also gain the history of the instruments and how they are a key component of Kirtan (Sikh sung prayer).

Singing plays a key part in our daily school life; through prayer, collective worship, enrichment events, assemblies, performances and other curricular areas, singing is a key element.

## **Part B: Extra 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.

### **After-School Music Tuition:**

In addition to learning a classical Indian instrument in KS2 lessons, the school offers small group instrumental tuition after school to further develop their knowledge and skills of Jori and Dilruba. Tabla and Classical Indian Vocals are also offered as after school clubs. A school choir has been formed in collaboration with Nishkam High School Birmingham and is delivered by the High School's Music Lead.

These pupils have opportunities throughout the academic year to perform as an ensemble through collective worship, assemblies, school concerts and local events.

The after-school music tuition is offered for free or subsidised for pupils with a Pupil Premium eligibility. Pupils identified as Pupil Premium and/or SEND are offered clubs first before offering spaces to other pupils. All clubs are offered to all pupils with SEND, and reasonable adjustments are made where necessary.

### **Nishkam Musicians:**

Each year, the school gathers information regarding children's involvement and achievements within music. Parents provide a detailed overview of the instrument (including vocals) they play, whether they attend lessons and whether they have taken grades or taken part in competitions or external events. This information is used by the music lead and senior leaders to not only offer opportunities for these pupils to perform through musical showcases throughout the year in weekly assemblies and events, but

to celebrate their talent and nurture it further eg through bringing other musical pupils together to form ensembles.

A space has been designated upstairs in the school for pupils to practice individually or as an ensemble.

### **Ensembles:**

Pupils not only have the opportunity to sing and play collectively through kirtan (Sikh sung prayer), but within assemblies, enrichment events (such as performing at the Commonwealth Service and Nishkam Winte/Summer Concert) and musical performances.

Our pupils have opportunities to perform as an ensemble (instrumental or vocal) on various platforms. This has included (but not limited to) assemblies, Year 6 Graduation, local events such as the Commonwealth Service at St Philip's Cathedral, and faith events such as Gurburab and Vaisakhi Celebrations at the local Gurdwara.

### **Signposting:**

The school identifies exceptional talent and interest across all subjects. Where this talent of significant interest has been identified in music during lessons or parental communication, the music lead signposts children and their families to the following:

- School music tuition
- How to find local music teachers
- Area Music Ensembles
- Central Music Ensembles
- The Symphony Orchestra (young peoples)
- CBSO Children's Choir
- Local or national music competitions

## **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.

In addition to our music curriculum and co-curriculum, we offer different musical experiences for our pupils. This includes, but not limited to, participating in singing and/or performing instruments in weekly assemblies, parent assemblies and local events (eg Commonwealth Service at St Philip's Cathedral and Gurburab at the local Gurdwara), through to listening to live music performances as a member of the audience both in and out of school.

Every class attends yearly live orchestral performances delivered by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and a live theatre production every year, which includes listening to live singing and musical performances. Selected year

groups will also attend visits to be a member of the audience at concerts and other live musical performance when the opportunities arise.

All pupils are expected to participate in these musical opportunities. Where necessary, potential barriers are minimised through reasonable adjustments or financial support (through subsidised or fully funded trips) to ensure accessibility.

The school has strong links with two local classical Indian trained musicians (Surdharshan Singh and Gurpreet Singh Chandan) who support our music offer through instrumental lessons as well as delivering live musical performances once a year.

## In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

In the future, the school hopes to build on the excellent music offer available to all our pupils by:

- continuing to build on the range of instruments offered for tuition
- forming a school vocal ensemble
- forming a school instrument ensemble
- collaborating with Services for education for further music opportunities
- collaborating with Nishkam High School and other local area schools regarding musical showcases and performances
- continuing to develop pupils' knowledge of musicians, composers and genres of music

## Further information (optional)

### **Local Music Hub and Music Services:**

- You can access Birmingham's Music hub here:  
<https://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/music-service/>
- Services for Education also run Area Music Ensembles (beginners to grade 3) and Central Ensembles:  
<https://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/area-ensembles/>  
<https://www.servicesforeducation.co.uk/central-ensembles/>
- City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO):  
<https://cbso.co.uk/take-part/young-people>
- CBSO Children's Choir:  
<https://cbso.co.uk/take-part/sing-with-the-cbso/cbso-childrens-chorus>

**Partners:**

Member of Music Mark: <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>