



Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01.10.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.10.27
Name of the school music lead	XYZ Music Academy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	XYZ Music Academy
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

At Ickford School, we believe that music should be an integral part of every child's education. Our aim is for every pupil to develop musical knowledge, skills and confidence, while also experiencing the joy of listening to, performing and creating music.

Our music provision is supported by **XYZ Music Academy**, whose specialist music teachers provide high-quality teaching and expertise across the school. This partnership enables pupils to develop progressively as musicians, while ensuring that singing, instrumental performance, listening, composing and music literacy are woven throughout their musical experience.

Our provision is delivered through three areas:

- Curriculum music – music taught as part of the school curriculum
- Co-curricular music – opportunities for pupils to develop their musical skills beyond curriculum lessons
- Musical experiences – opportunities to perform, listen to and engage with music within and beyond school.

Inclusion and participation

Music at Ickford is for every pupil.

We aim to remove barriers to participation and ensure that pupils of different abilities, backgrounds and levels of prior experience can take part in musical activity.

Specialist teaching enables staff to adapt activities appropriately and provide suitable challenge and support. Pupils are encouraged to participate in singing, instrumental work, listening and performance, with additional opportunities available for those who wish to pursue music further.

We recognise that music can support children's confidence, creativity, communication and sense of belonging, as well as their musical development.

Part A: Curriculum Music

Our curriculum provides pupils with the opportunity to learn an instrument as part of their primary education.

Reception to Year 2

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are introduced to the recorder as well as the Ukulele. This provides an accessible starting point for developing:

- musical awareness and listening skills;
- pulse, rhythm and beat;
- basic notation and music reading;
- breath control and coordination;
- playing simple melodies; and
- confidence in performing.

The recorder provides a strong foundation on which pupils can build their wider musicianship.

Year 3 to Year 6

From Year 3, pupils progress to learning the violin. This develops increasingly sophisticated musical and technical skills, including:

- posture and instrument technique;
- bow control and tone production;
- finger placement and intonation;
- rhythm and pulse;
- reading musical notation;
- ensemble playing; and
- performance skills.

The progression from recorder to violin enables pupils to build on their existing understanding of rhythm, notation and musical expression while developing the additional technical skills required to play a string instrument.

In addition, the children experience Xylophone, Drums and Ukulele

Singing

Singing is an important part of music at Ickford and is accessible to every pupil, regardless of previous musical experience or confidence.

Pupils sing regularly in music lessons and as part of whole-school life. Singing supports the development of pitch, rhythm, musical expression, listening and confidence, while also contributing to our sense of community.

Our approach ensures that singing is not restricted to pupils who consider themselves to be 'musical'; every child has the opportunity to participate and develop their voice.

Essential Characteristics of Musical Learners:

- A rapidly widening repertoire which they use to create original, imaginative, fluent and distinctive composing and performance work.
- A musical understanding underpinned by high levels of aural perception, internalisation and knowledge of music, including high or rapidly developing levels of technical expertise.
- Very good awareness and appreciation of different musical traditions and genres
- An excellent understanding of how musical provenance - the historical, social and cultural origins of music - contributes to the diversity of musical styles .
- The ability to give precise written and verbal explanations, using musical terminology effectively, accurately and appropriately.
- A passion for and commitment to a diverse range of musical activities.

Essential Opportunities:

Key Stage 1:

- Use their voices expressively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
- Play tuned and untuned instruments musically.
- Make and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Key Stage 2:

- Play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using voice and playing instruments with increasing accuracy, control and expression.

- Improvise and compose music using the inter-related dimensions of music separately and in combination.
- Listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.
- Use and understand the basics of the stave and other musical notations.
- Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and from great musicians and composers.
- Develop an understanding of the history of music

Specialist music teaching

Our partnership with XYZ Music Academy provides pupils with access to specialist music teachers who have expertise in instrumental teaching, musicianship and performance.

Specialist teaching supports:

- consistent progression in musical knowledge and skills;
- accurate instrumental technique;
- the development of music-reading skills;
- appropriate challenge for pupils at different stages of development;
- opportunities to compose, perform and respond to music;
- high expectations for musical achievement; and
- opportunities for pupils to develop their confidence and enthusiasm for music.

The specialist teachers also contribute to the wider musical life of the school through performances, workshops and enrichment opportunities.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Pupils have opportunities to develop their musical skills beyond curriculum lessons.

- Instrumental tuition is available in:
 - piano
 - guitar
 - drums
 - violin
- Lessons take place during lunchtimes and/or after school, providing pupils with opportunities to develop an instrument in greater depth and to pursue individual musical interests.
- Children can also access musical opportunities through **XYZ Music Academy** and **Buckinghamshire Music Trust**, where appropriate.

- Several pupils are also members of Thame Chamber Choir, providing an additional opportunity for children who wish to develop their vocal skills and perform as part of a wider ensemble.

Our aim is to ensure that pupils who demonstrate particular enthusiasm or aptitude for music have opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Part C: Musical experiences

We believe that children should experience music as listeners, performers and creators.

Throughout their time at Ickford, pupils have opportunities to perform and experience live music through:

- Harvest celebrations;
- Christmas and Carol Concerts;
- end-of-year performances;
- assemblies and Celebration Assemblies;
- school events and community occasions;
- instrumental performances;
- workshops with professional musicians; and
- visits to professional concert venues where appropriate.

These experiences enable pupils to develop confidence as performers and to appreciate music as a form of artistic and cultural expression.

Live music and professional musicians

We value opportunities for pupils to hear professional musicians and experience live performance.

Where opportunities arise, pupils attend concerts and workshops in venues such as Oxford and London. We have also welcomed professional musicians, including the Carducci Quartet, to work with our pupils.

These experiences enable children to:

- hear high-quality live music;
- observe professional musicianship;
- develop their musical vocabulary;
- make connections between classroom learning and professional performance;
- experience a range of musical styles and traditions; and
- be inspired by musicians and performers.

Where appropriate, live performances are linked to pupils' curriculum learning, particularly their work on instrumental performance and classical music.

Listening and musical culture

Music is part of the everyday culture of Ickford School. Pupils encounter a wide range of music through lessons, assemblies, performances and listening opportunities.

We have a particular strength in exposing pupils to classical music and professional performance. This complements the practical music-making that takes place through singing and instrumental teaching.

Our aim is to develop pupils who are curious and confident listeners, able to talk about music and appreciate a broad range of musical styles, traditions and performers.

In the future:

Our priorities for this academic year and beyond include:

1. **Strengthening progression**

Continue to develop a clear progression of musical knowledge and skills from Reception to Year 6, building effectively from recorder to violin and across singing, listening, composing and performance.

2. **Developing assessment**

Explore the use of the **Music Medals** assessment programme, run by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), to support the recognition and celebration of pupils' musical progress.

3. **Increasing live musical experiences**

Continue to increase opportunities for pupils to attend professional concerts and experience live music.

4. **Expanding musician workshops**

Develop further links with professional musicians and ensembles to provide workshops and opportunities for pupils to learn directly from practising musicians.

5. **Strengthening the partnership with XYZ Music Academy**

Continue to work closely with XYZ Music Academy to review the quality, progression and breadth of music provision and to identify further opportunities for pupils to develop as musicians.

6. **Celebrating musical achievement**

Provide regular opportunities for pupils to share their musical achievements with the school community through assemblies, concerts and other performances.

Our long-term aim is to build on Ickford's strong musical tradition while ensuring that every pupil develops the knowledge, skills, confidence and enjoyment needed to become a lifelong participant in and advocate for music.