King’s Cross Academy

Music Development Plan

Ratification and Monitoring

Ratified date:	September 2026
Review date:	September 2027
Website?	YES
Policy drive?	YES
Master Policy S/S	YES

Approval

Headteacher	Stephen Mitchell	September 2026
Chair of Quality of Education Committee	Allan Atlee	September 2026

Internal Monitoring

Isaac Bailey-Cullen	Music Teacher	September 2026

Music development plan summary: King's Cross Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Isaac Bailey-Cullen
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Stephen Mitchell
Name of local music hub	London - North
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Camden Music Hub

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.

At King's Cross Academy, we are committed to providing a high-quality and ambitious music education for all pupils. Children from Nursery to Year 6 receive one hour of music education each week, taught by our specialist music teacher, Mr Bailey.

Our music curriculum is structured around the key strands of performing, composing and listening, with knowledge and skills carefully sequenced so that pupils build their musical understanding and confidence as they progress through the school.

In the EYFS, music forms an important part of the Expressive Arts and Design area of learning. Children regularly learn and perform nursery rhymes, number songs and a wide range of familiar and new songs. They also have access to instruments and sound-makers within continuous provision, providing opportunities to explore sound, rhythm and musical expression independently and collaboratively.

From Year 1 onwards, pupils follow a bespoke music curriculum developed by the school's Music Lead and specialist music teacher. The curriculum draws upon the

National Curriculum for Music, the Model Music Curriculum and Kapow Music, while being adapted to reflect the needs, interests and context of pupils at King's Cross Academy.

Across the curriculum, pupils encounter music from a broad range of traditions, periods, styles and cultures, from Western classical music to Caribbean Calypso and music from across the world. Pupils learn to listen critically and respond to music using increasingly sophisticated musical vocabulary. They develop their skills as performers and composers, both independently and collaboratively, using a growing range of instruments including keyboards, tuned and untuned percussion and African djembe drums.

Music planning, progression and curriculum documentation are reviewed regularly by the Music Lead and specialist teacher. This ensures that learning is appropriately sequenced, that expectations remain ambitious and that the curriculum continues to develop in response to pupils' needs and current national guidance.

King's Cross Academy is also recognised as a Music Mark School. This affiliation supports the academy in remaining connected to developments in music education, professional practice and national thinking, while demonstrating our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality music education for all pupils.

KCA achieved the Silver Award from Camden Music in September 2026.

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 King's Cross Academy, we are committed to ensuring that pupils have opportunities to develop their musical interests and talents beyond the core curriculum.

Working in partnership with Camden Music Service, we provide pupils with access to specialist instrumental tuition. All pupils in Years 4 to 6 have the opportunity to receive tuition in violin, piano or recorder. By subsidising this provision, we aim to remove financial barriers to participation and ensure that instrumental learning is accessible to all pupils. This provision enables children to develop greater technical proficiency, confidence and musicianship, while providing a pathway for those who wish to continue their musical learning beyond the classroom.

We have a Key Stage 2 choir, which rehearses weekly and is free for all pupils to join. The choir provides regular opportunities to develop vocal technique, ensemble skills and confidence in performance. Pupils represent King's Cross Academy at a range of events, including the Camden Schools Music Festivals and performances at venues across the King's Cross Estate.

We are particularly proud of our ongoing musical partnership with Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children. Pupils from both schools collaborate through the Signing Stars choir, learning to perform and interpret songs using British Sign Language alongside singing

and music. Signing Stars has performed at Central Hall Westminster and at venues across London, providing pupils with memorable opportunities to perform for wider audiences while celebrating inclusion, communication and collaboration through music. Through instrumental tuition, choir and collaborative performance opportunities, we provide clear routes for pupils to participate in music beyond their weekly curriculum entitlement. Pupils demonstrating a particular interest or aptitude in music can be identified by our specialist music teacher and supported to access further opportunities and pathways through Camden Music Service and other local partners.

As our co-curricular provision develops, we will continue to review participation and progression to ensure that pupils from all backgrounds, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, are able to access and benefit from the wider musical life of the academy.

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.

Musical experiences are an important part of life at King's Cross Academy. Alongside curriculum and co-curricular music, we aim to provide pupils with regular opportunities to sing, perform, listen to live music and experience music in professional and community settings.

Singing forms part of the wider life of the academy, including through assemblies, celebrations and special events. Pupils have opportunities throughout their time at KCA to perform to their peers, families and wider audiences, helping them to develop confidence, enjoyment and a sense of belonging through shared musical experiences.

Our location in the heart of King's Cross provides us with access to an exceptional range of cultural organisations and professional musicians. Pupils have participated in projects involving visiting musicians and professional ensembles, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Aurora Orchestra, and have benefited from our relationship with organisations based locally, including those at Kings Place.
We also seek opportunities for pupils to perform beyond the academy. Our choir and other groups perform at community events and venues across King's Cross and London, enabling pupils to experience the excitement and responsibility of performing for different audiences.

King's Cross Academy participates in the Camden Schools Music Festival, including the biennial festival at the Royal Albert Hall, giving pupils the opportunity to participate in a large-scale musical performance alongside children and young people from across Camden.

Working with our local Music Hub and cultural partners, we will continue to broaden the range of live music, workshops, performances and professional musical experiences available to pupils. Our ambition is that every child leaves King's Cross Academy having experienced the excitement of performing for an audience and hearing high-quality live music, alongside developing their own identity and confidence as a musician.

In the future

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

During this academic year and beyond, we will continue to strengthen and broaden music provision at King's Cross Academy, with the ambition that every pupil is able to participate in, enjoy and progress through a rich musical education.

A key priority will be to develop ensemble music-making in Key Stage 2, building upon our instrumental tuition programme. As pupils develop their instrumental skills, we will establish opportunities for them to rehearse and perform together in small ensembles and groups. Pupils demonstrating a particular enthusiasm or aptitude for music will also be supported and signposted towards the wider range of ensembles, groups and progression opportunities available through Camden Music Service and our local Music Hub.

We will further develop digital music, composition and music technology within our curriculum. We recognise the increasingly important role that technology plays in contemporary music and its potential to engage pupils in different forms of composition, performance and creativity. We will explore opportunities for pupils to use appropriate digital tools to compose, record, edit and share their own music, while supporting their transition to the musical opportunities available at secondary school and beyond.

Alongside curriculum development, we will continue to improve our physical environment for music. Building upon the development of our dedicated music classroom, we will explore opportunities to create additional spaces for individual and small-group instrumental tuition, rehearsal and collaborative music-making.

We will increase the frequency and visibility of musical performance across the academy. This will include informal opportunities for pupils to perform during assemblies and celebration assemblies.