

# Richard de Clare Community Academy
# Music Development Plan 2026 - 2027

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## Summary:


At Richard de Clare Community Academy, we want to enrich pupils' school experience through music lessons and extra-curricular activities, supporting them to develop a love of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need, to become confident performers, composers, and listeners. We aim to introduce children to music from all around the world and across generations, teaching children to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Our music curriculum will also develop children's transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem solving, decision making, presentation and performance skills. All of these skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.


## Overview:

| Detail | Information |
|---|---|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2026-2027 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Kirsty Howlett |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Kirsty Howlett |
| Name of local music hub | Essex Music Education Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Rocksteady |

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

## Curriculum Music:

We follow the Kapow Primary Music Scheme in which the progressive units of work weave the individual strands of performing, listening, composing, the history of music and the inter-related dimensions of music to create engaging and enriching learning experiences. Our music lessons are timetabled weekly for all classes in Key Stage 1 and 2.

Within this curriculum, pupils are taught how to sing fluently and expressively and play tuned and untuned instruments accurately and with control. They learn how to recognise and name the interrelated dimensions of music- pitch, duration, tempo, timbre, structure, texture and dynamics and use these in their own improvisations and compositions. They will develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and learn how music can be written down.

## Extra-Curricular Music:

At Richard de Clare, we continue to develop a range of musical opportunities outside of our weekly music lessons. To enhance the Kapow music curriculum, pupils receive teaching from a specialist peripatetic teacher from Essex Music Education Hub for a term in Year 4, 5 and 6 to enhance pupils understanding of tuned instruments (e.g. ukeleles, doods or glockenspiels).

Additionally, our school choir practices together once a week and is open to all pupils. These pupils have the opportunity to perform at school functions and community events, as well as in whole school assemblies.

This year, we are working with the company Rocksteady to offer extracurricular instrumental lessons to all of year 3 in the Autumn term. Rocksteady is a company that provides in-school band music lessons including electric guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals. These will take place on a 1:10 basis to create a 'band' with the school fully funding this musical enrichment.

We are then looking to expand our work with Rocksteady in the spring and summer terms to be able to offer pupils in all year groups parent-funded music lessons. Where possible funding subsidiaries will be offered to facilitate pupils eligible for pupil premium funding to learn an instrument.

## Musical Experiences:

At Richard de Clare, we engage in further musical experiences throughout the year. During the summer term, all pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 partake in a musical enrichment week in which each year group studies a piece of high-quality music from a different genre (previous examples have been classical, reggae and pop); this is used to inspire their learning in other areas of the curriculum including English and art. During this week children are encouraged to appraise, research the composers and artists, learn their names, information about them and use this information as inspiration for wider learning. During musical enrichment week, the children may also have the opportunity to experience a form of musical workshop to expand their musical exposure to different genres/instruments further.

We hold a weekly, whole school singing assembly using a range of songs from different eras and genres with opportunities to sing in rounds and groups. These assemblies also embed key musical vocabulary.

We perform class assemblies annually from Reception – Year 6 where parents are invited to share learning with us. During these assemblies that involve all pupils, children can showcase their learning of the wider curriculum which incorporates singing and performances of their instrumental skills as either part of a small or whole class group. These assemblies are shared with the school and the parent community.

Regular visits to the local church enable us to perform songs as classes and as a whole school group in an alternative setting.

The annual EYFS and Key Stage 1 Nativity incorporates many songs and dances to tell the story of the birth of Jesus. We also have the annual Key Stage 2 Carol Concert where children sing Christmas favourites to our parent community.

At the end of Key Stage 2, the Year 6 Leaver's Assembly is another performance opportunity in which pupils are given the opportunity to sing or play instruments as a soloist, part of a small group or as a whole cohort. Both performances are shared with the school community and with the parent community.

We will also be attending the Bridge Academy Trust Music Festival in the summer term. A select group of pupils will be taken to perform and experience a celebration of music alongside pupils from other primary schools in Bridge Academy Trust.

**In the Future:**

- To continue embedding the teaching of music, of at least 45 minutes each week of the school year for pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2
- We aim to provide further opportunities for the school choir to perform in our community and beyond.
- To enhance and widen our provision for individuals to learn an instrument and provide practice space and opportunities for this in school.
- To create a school band or ensemble for those learning instruments within school and out of school.