Music

Long-term plan

Condensed

Kapow Primary's condensed Music long-term plan for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 is designed for schools teaching the subject over the course of half an academic year. Structured as three five-week units, the condensed plan provides schools with additional space in the annual timetable.

Note: This document is regularly updated to reflect changes to our content. This version was created on 05.05.26. For the latest version, click here.

Curriculum support

Kapow Primary's curriculum access is being improved to make resources more searchable, user-friendly and sustainable.

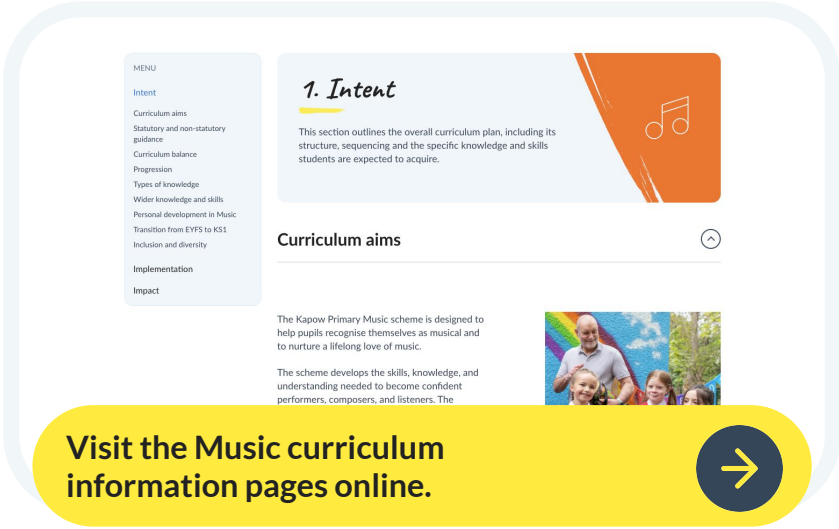
Curriculum information pages and curriculum portals bring together content that was previously only available across multiple PDF documents. This allows quicker access to key information and ensures that the most up-to-date guidance is always available.

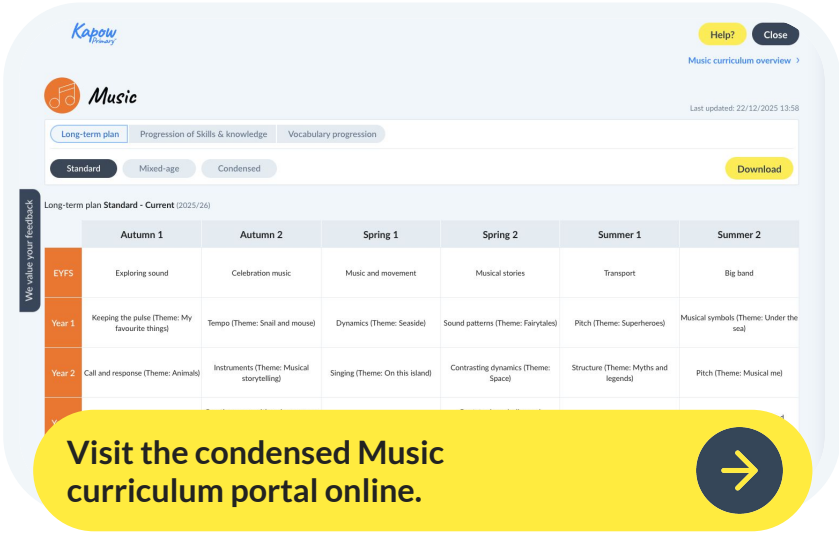
Curriculum information pages

These pages outline the intent, implementation and impact of the Kapow Primary curriculum, including the rationale behind the approach. They act as a central hub for curriculum guidance, with links to related resources, embedded media and FAQs to support understanding.

Curriculum portals

The curriculum portals provide an online view of each subject's long-term plan and progression. They bring together key unit information, including national curriculum links, British values and SMSC, knowledge and skills, vocabulary and cross-curricular connections, allowing easy navigation between whole-school and unit-level views.





Suggested long-term plan: Music - Overview (All year groups)

New for 2026/27! This Music long-term plan has been updated to reflect refreshed content. Links will be added as refreshed units are published.
To learn more about the 2026/27 refresh, click here.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS	Exploring sound	Music and movement	Big band
Year 1	Keeping the pulse: My favourite things	Sound patterns: Fairytales	Pitch: Superheroes
Year 2	Call and response: Animals	Instruments: Musical storytelling	Pitch: Musical me
Year 3	Reading rhythms: Patterns and layers *Coming soon!*	Inspired by India: Musical improvisation	Reggae rhythms: Playing in a band
Year 4	Singing in parts: Loops and layers	Musical motifs: Reading the stave *Coming soon!*	Music technology: Loops *Coming soon!*
Year 5	Music in nature: Chords and melodies	West African rhythms: Create, play and perform *Coming soon!*	Stage and song: Storytelling through music *Coming soon!*
Year 6	Four-chord pop: Playing in a band *Coming soon!*	Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages *Coming soon!*	Music technology: Electronic dance music *Coming soon!*

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Autumn	Exploring sound (5 lessons) Exploring how we can use our voice, bodies and instruments to make sounds and identifying sounds in the environment.	
Spring	Music and movement (5 lessons) Creating simple actions to well-known songs, the children learn how to move to a beat and expressing feelings and emotions through movement to music.	
Summer	Big band (5 lessons) Learning about what makes a musical instrument, the four different groups of musical instruments. The children also follow a beat using untuned instruments and rehearse and perform and a song.	Kapow Primary's EYFS lessons are a natural precursor to the Year 1 Music plans, focusing on discrete music learning as well as incorporating music into other areas of learning. To learn more, see: *Teacher guidance: Music and continuous provision*.

	Year 1	Year 2
Autumn	My favourite things: Keeping the pulse (5 lessons) Learning how to keep a steady pulse, pupils engage in music and movement activities inspired by some of their favourite things. They participate in different activities, moving to the beat of the music while thinking about and expressing their favourite objects or experiences.	Animals: Call and response (5 lessons) Chanting different call-and-response sound patterns, pupils progress to create their own patterns using untuned percussion instruments. They practise rhythm and pulse as they echo and respond to each other's chants, developing their sense of musical communication.
Spring	Fairytales: Sound patterns (5 lessons) Examining a variety of fairy tales, pupils discuss the key moments in these stories. They are guided to clap and read simple sound patterns, matching the different characters of the story. Pupils then use these sound patterns to retell the fairy tale, bringing the story to life through sound and movement.	Musical storytelling: Instruments (5 lessons) Exploring longer pieces of music, pupils look at how music can tell a story through a variety of instruments. They think creatively, considering how sounds can represent characters, actions and emotions when creating a soundscape to tell the story of Jack and the Beanstalk.
Summer	Superheroes: Pitch (5 lessons) Identifying high and low notes, pupils use this knowledge to compose a simple tune that represents a superhero. They then listen to different pitches, recognising the difference between high and low sounds. Lastly, pupils experiment with combining different pitches to create a melody that represents their chosen superhero.	Musical Me: Pitch (5 lessons) Learning the song 'Once a Man Fell in a Well,' pupils focus on connecting the melody to specific pitches. They explore how different notes correspond to different parts of the song, using tuned instruments to accurately recreate the tune. They also begin to recognise how simple symbols can represent pitch, developing their ability to read and interpret musical notation.

	Year 3	Year 4
Autumn	**Reading rhythms: Patterns and layers (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Introducing basic rhythmic notation, pupils learn how rhythms can be written, read and performed. By clapping, using body percussion and playing instruments, they recognise and play simple rhythmic patterns. Pupils then use notation to create their own layered rhythmic compositions, combining different parts to build group performances.	Singing in parts: Loops and layers **(5 lessons)** Using engaging, catchy songs, pupils develop their vocal technique, confidence and control. They explore composing and performing loops, building independence through rounds and practising the key skills needed to stay in time and hold their own part. By listening carefully and working together, pupils create rich, layered performances.
Spring	Inspired by India: Musical improvisations **(5 lessons)** Exploring traditional Indian music, pupils being to understand the art of improvisation. They create their own short but effective improvisations using the pentatonic scale and simple techniques. Pupils then learn to shape pitch, dynamics and tempo to create contrast and express different moods. Lastly, pupils develop their confidence, creativity and control guided by video tutorials from a professional Indian duo.	**Musical motifs: Reading the stave (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Developing their knowledge of pitch, pupils are introduced to notation using the stave. They explore the notes C to G on the stave and use them to play short musical phrases. Pupils are then introduced to musical motifs and how composers use them to portray characters and moods within a piece of music. Lastly, pupils compose their own motifs for various characters and combine them in a group performance.
Summer	Reggae rhythms: Playing in a band **(5 lessons)** Exploring reggae through two of Bob Marley's iconic songs, 'Buffalo Soldier' and 'Three Little Birds', pupils learn simplified bass lines, basic chords and the concept of the offbeat. Guided by video tutorials from the world's first all-female reggae band, pupils then combine bass, chords and offbeat rhythms to form their own reggae bands.	**Music technology: Loops (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Developing their digital literacy through music technology, pupils create and manipulate musical loops. They begin by turning simple motifs into catchy loops, learning how to input and edit them using music software. Pupils further develop their music technology skills by layering sounds, composing complementary parts and creating their own digital compositions.

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	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn	**Music in nature: Chords and melodies (5 lessons)** Inspired by the power of nature, pupils compose short melodies to reflect the many moods of the sky. Pupils learn to manipulate pitch, dynamics and harmony to shape mood and atmosphere. They create simple chords to add depth and colour to their ideas, discovering how the interrelated dimensions of music work together to produce expressive performances.	**Four-chord pop: Playing in a band (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Building on the skills developed throughout KS2, pupils combine their knowledge and experience to form their own pop bands. Guided by videos featuring professional musicians, they learn the bass line, chords and melody of a well-known pop song. Lastly, they develop their performances by adding rhythm, creativity and musical expression to create a final piece.
Spring	**West African rhythms: Create, play and perform (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Discovering the rhythms of West Africa, pupils experience the energy of traditional ensemble music. They learn how different rhythmic patterns fit together and take ownership of specific parts. Working collaboratively, pupils then combine rhythms to create layered textures while developing their sense of pulse and teamwork.	**Songs that speak: Lyrics and messages (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Focusing on how songs communicate meaning, pupils explore how lyrics can convey clear, powerful messages. They learn about songwriting techniques such as rhyme, repetition and emotive language, before creating their own lyrics inspired by themes of identity, positivity and self-expression. Lastly, pupils work collaboratively to rehearse, refine and perform their lyrics.
Summer	**Stage and song: Storytelling through music (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Learning about musical theatre, pupils identify how music helps to tell stories on stage. They explore song types such as solos, duets and ensemble numbers and consider how composers use musical choices to create mood and move the story forward. Lastly, pupils develop their vocal skills by singing with a wider range and performing in 3/4 time.	**Music technology: Electronic dance music (5 lessons)** *Coming soon!* Discovering the world of electronic dance music (EDM), pupils develop their digital music skills while learning the key features of the genre. Through listening and discussion, they learn about the origins of EDM, the artists who helped shape it and its cultural impact. Using music technology, pupils experiment with creating their own electronic sounds and structures to create EDM-inspired compositions.

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This page shows updates to this document.

Date	Update
31.07.23	New unit (Transport) added to EYFS scheme for school year 2023-24. Y6 unit Advanced rhythms has been archived and is replaced by the Baroque unit in Year 6.
20.10.23	New unit (Tempo: Snail and mouse) added to Year 1 (p.13, p.15) Extra information added about Diversity in the Kapow primary curriculum (p. 7) and about how Kapow can support non-specialists (p. 6).
19.08.24	Extensive updates to the document to reflect updates to the curriculum and KS1 content. Changes have been made to incorporate information about: Exploring the strands, Different types of knowledge, Notation, The composing process, The group practising process, Music in EYFS, Assessment in Music and more. KS1 titles and summaries have been updated (p.27, p.29–30).
05.09.24	Updated links to newly updated KS1 units.
17.12.24	Updated assessment in Music information (p. 20).
30.04.26	Removed pages outlining curriculum design as this information can now be found in the Music *Curriculum information pages*. Units updated to reflect newly published content for 2026/27.