

# Music development plan summary: Portway Primary School

## Overview

| Detail   | Information       |
|--|-------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers   | 2025-26           |
| Date this summary was published  | September 2025    |
| Date this summary will be reviewed   | July 2026         |
| Name of the school music lead  | Heidi Caccioppoli |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) |                   |
| Name of local music hub  | Newham Music      |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)            | Love2Sing         |

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.

Music is an exciting and integral part of life at Portway Primary School. Music inspires creativity and develops essential skills for improving confidence and self-expression, therefore we aim to provide a wide range of musical opportunities for all through our ambitious curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.

Students develop their understanding of different musical concepts and skills, as well as learn to appreciate music from a range of genres and composers. Students have opportunities to develop and present their performance skills at a number of concerts throughout the year.

Music is introduced to children in EYFS and is taught weekly across the school, including in our SEND nurture group, by specialist teachers from Love2Sing. Students learn to sing and have the opportunity to explore different instruments, including a range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments and ukuleles. Year 5 and 6 students are taught violin as part of a local cluster program. These students also have the opportunity to extend their learning in a weekly after school violin club. All students take part in a weekly Music assembly where musicianship

is developed through singing a range of styles and taking on different parts, rhythmic warm ups and listening activities.

We recognise the power music has to support learning throughout the curriculum with children using song to learn concepts in all subject areas. This enables a fun way to remember facts and information about other subjects as diverse as Mathematics and Geography.

The Music curriculum is designed to help pupils form a Music Mental model within their long-term memories.

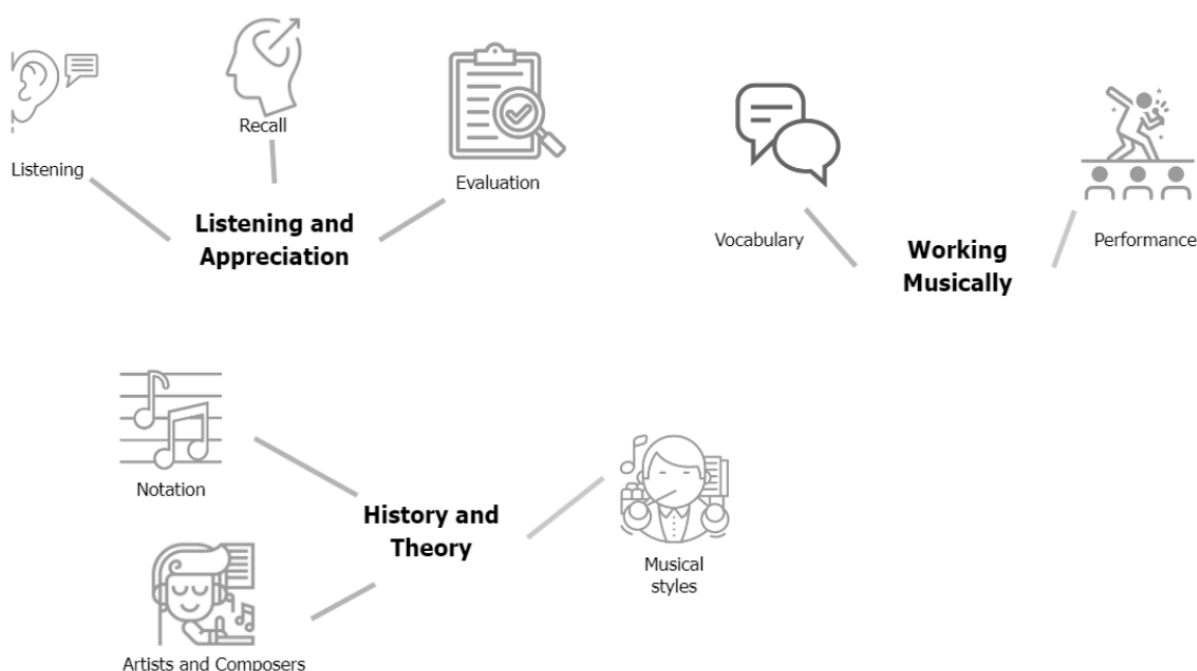
Schema theory states that all knowledge is organised into units. A mental model is, therefore, a conceptual system for understanding knowledge.

Our Music Mental model is a way of organising Music substantive and disciplinary knowledge in a meaningful way; it is an appreciation of how facts are connected and the ways in which they are connected. It is distinct from information, which is just isolated facts that have no organisational basis or links.

Big Ideas help form the basis of the mental model. Big Ideas are key concepts that underpin the subject. There are three Big Ideas in Music:

- Listening and Appreciation (Develop the ability to listen carefully to a variety of live and recorded music and offer opinions about what they are listening to with reference to styles, instruments played, musical styles and artists)
- History and Theory (KS2) (Use standard notation to record and play music recognising the key features of a range of musical styles, artists and composers)
- Performance (including composition and improvisation) (Use the skills of playing a variety of tuned and untuned instruments musically and composing in planned performance or through improvisation)

Each Big Idea has knowledge strands which help to strengthen the mental model. Learning knowledge in each of the strands allows pupils to express and demonstrate their understanding of the Big Idea, which gradually develops as pupils return to them over and over again.



## 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.

Children that are interested in progressing their musicianship beyond their class lessons can join the KS2 Choir (Y3-Y6), which rehearses weekly after school to prepare for performances throughout the year. The Choir works towards a range of performances throughout the year. Year 5 and 6 students can also join the after school Violin Club, which also offers additional performance opportunities and a chance to work with staff and students from Lister Community School. Both of these groups are free to join. They also each have a google classroom where materials and resources are shared, to support students to continue to practise their pieces outside of school.

## 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.

Portway has three main musical events across the school year. These are, the Winter Concerts and Nativities, the Spring Concerts, and the Year 6 Musical. Families are invited to all of these events. The Winter and Spring concerts involve all of the students across the school. While only Year 6 students perform in the musical, all other students are involved by learning the songs and viewing the performances. Newham Community Learning has a yearly Trust Showcase, at which all the trust schools, including Portway, perform. Families are again invited to these events. These are also an opportunity for the students to see a range of musical performances from other schools, including local secondary schools.

## In the future

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

Portway has ambitions to enhance a dedicated music studio which would achieve the following:

- increase the range of instruments and digital music forms
- Scope for further termly school performances
- Employment of a full time specialist music teacher which would increase the lesson time to over 1 hour per week.

**Further information (optional)**