

THE PREMIER ACADEMY



Music Development Plan 2025-2026

Written and published: August 2024

Reviewed and updated: September 2025

Date of next review: August 2026

Head of Academy Music: Jonathan Harris

Local Music Hub (from September 2024): BLMK Music Hub (Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Music Hub)

Summary

This summary should be read in conjunction with [music section](#) of the TPA website.

The [National Plan for Music Education](#) outlines seven features of high-quality music provision in schools.

- Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- A school choir or vocal ensemble
- A school ensemble, band or group
- Space for rehearsals and individual practice
- A termly school performance
- Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The Premier Academy goes above and beyond these expectations to provide an outstanding musical education for every child, and, as such, models an example of excellence in music education locally, nationally and internationally. This has led to the music department being recognised through various awards, and it has engaged in offering external CPD to other schools and music organisations across England and beyond.

Please see the music section of the TPA website for more information.

Below is a brief summary of the seven features of high-quality music education at TPA:

- Every child at TPA receives at least one-hour each week of music education from our specialist music teacher.
- Specialist instrumental tuition is provided by visiting music teachers from the MK Music Co-operative in a wide range of instruments including strings, woodwind, brass, keyboard and guitar.
- Every child in Year 5 and 6 has the opportunity to join our choir which performs annually at the Young Voices Festival at the O2 Arena, London as well as at other events, prepared for through weekly choir practices after school throughout the year. Children in other year groups having similar opportunities to perform as part of a choir at local events such as Christmas On Queensway and at local care homes.
- Our TPA Orchestra rehearses weekly after school throughout the year, and separate string and woodwind ensembles perform in school and at the local Music Hub instrumental festivals.
- Children learning orchestral instruments have the opportunity to practise before school in the Music Room on specified days. TPA has a dedicated space for instrumental lessons and a large performance space in the hall, in addition to our well-resourced Music Room.

- Every child at TPA performs on stage at least once a year in front of their families and peers through class assemblies and productions. In addition, many performance opportunities are given to children through choirs, instrumental ensembles and in their classes. TPA represents the UK in the Global Science Opera initiative – each year our Year 5s perform live online in this international performance.
- TPA welcomes performance groups into school throughout the year including ‘instrumental roadshows’ organised by the local Music Hub. We also organise external visits to performances such as The Open University Orchestra schools’ concerts.

Our full Music Development Plan 2025-26 has been created for internal use giving details of our curriculum music, co-curricular music, musical experiences, and planned developments. Please feel free to contact us for further information about this or regarding any aspects of music at TPA.

During 2025-26, TPA will be engaging with the RBO’s Cultural Champions programme, starting its next Artsmark journey, working in partnership with the local Music Hub as a Lead School for music, and supporting MAKE in its next stage of development.

In September 2025, TPA opened its new purpose-built, sound-proofed instrumental room for the visiting music teachers.

In May 2025, two members of TPA staff attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, hosted by King Charles, having been nominated to attend for services to cultural education in Buckinghamshire.

In April 2025, TPA was awarded Lead School status for music under the new Arts Council England initiative, working in collaboration with the BLMK Music Hub.

TPA is a Music Mark School, recognised for its outstanding commitment to high quality music education.

In January 2025, TPA became the first Champion School for the arts for MAKE (Milton Keynes’ Cultural Education Partnership).

In September 2024, TPA was awarded the International School Award by the British Council and presented the award at the Palace of Westminster in January 2025.

In May 2024, TPA received the Platinum Artsmark Award for excellence in arts provision. Thanks to engagement in activities such as our Cultural Diversity Week and our international work through Global Science Opera, amongst other activities.

TPA was a Trinity Arts Award Champion Centre from 2023 to 2025 and is a partner school for the Royal Ballet & Opera’s (RBO) Create & Sing Programme hosting several teacher CPD days.

In 2017, TPA was shortlisted for the International Award in the TES Schools’ Awards, and in 2018 TPA won Best School Music Department in the UK Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.

Children from TPA have sung and talked about their musical experiences on BBC Look East, Channel 4, BBC Radio Two, BBC Three Counties Radio, and BBC Ten Pieces, as well as in various recordings and live broadcasts shown around the world through Global Science Opera and other ventures.