

The Premier Academy – Music Development Plan 2026-2027

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Reviewed and Updated: September 2025, September 2026

Date of Next Review: August 2027

Head of Academy Music: Jonathan Harris

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



This summary should be read alongside the music section of the TPA website.

The National Plan for Music Education outlines seven features of high-quality music provision in schools: at least one hour of timetabled curriculum music each week 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 or band, space for rehearsals and individual practice, a termly school performance and the opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year.

The Premier Academy exceeds these expectations to provide an outstanding musical education for every child. The Academy models excellence in music education locally, nationally and internationally.

Every child receives at least one hour of weekly education from our specialist music teacher. Visiting teachers from the MK Music Co-operative provide specialist instrumental tuition in strings, woodwind, brass, keyboard and guitar.

Our co-curricular provision ensures that every child in Year 5 and Year 6 can join our choir. The choir prepares through weekly after-school practices and performs annually at the Young Voices Festival at the O2 Arena. Children in other year groups have opportunities to sing at local events organised by the council, the city shopping centre and local care homes.

The TPA Orchestra rehearses weekly after school throughout the year. Separate string, woodwind and brass ensembles perform in school and at local Music Hub instrumental festivals.

Children who are learning orchestral instruments can practise before school in the Music Room on specified days. TPA features a dedicated space for instrumental lessons, a well-resourced Music Room and a large performance space in Harrison Hall. In September 2025, TPA opened a new purpose-built and sound-proofed instrumental room for visiting teachers.

Every child performs on stage at least once a year for their families and peers through class assemblies and productions. Additional performance opportunities are provided through choirs, instrumental ensembles and class activities. Each year, our Year 5 children represent the UK in the international Global Science Opera.

We welcome performance groups into the Academy throughout the year, including instrumental roadshows organised by the local Music Hub. We also organise external visits to performances such as schools' concerts by The Open University Orchestra.

TPA has received significant recognition for its music department. We achieved Lead School status for music in April 2025 under the Arts Council England initiative in collaboration with the BLMK Music Hub. TPA is a recognised Music Mark School. In January 2025, we became the first Champion School for the arts for MAKE (Milton Keynes' Cultural Education Partnership). We received the Platinum Artsmark Award in May 2024 and submitted our Statement of Commitment for the next Artsmark journey in November 2025.

The British Council awarded TPA the International School Award in September 2024, which was presented at the Palace of Westminster in January 2025. In May 2025, two staff members attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace for services to cultural education in Buckinghamshire. Past accolades include winning Best School Music Department in the 2018 UK Music Teacher Awards for Excellence and being shortlisted for the International Award in the 2017 TES Schools' Awards.

Our children have shared their musical experiences on BBC Look East, Channel 4, BBC Radio Two, BBC Three Counties Radio and BBC Ten Pieces. The Year 5 live broadcast for the 2025 Global Science Opera featured in a BBC Look East news report in November 2025.

TPA served as a Trinity Arts Award Champion Centre from 2023 to 2025 and partners with the Royal Ballet & Opera (RBO) Create & Sing Programme. During 2025/26, we engaged with the RBO's Cultural Champions programme, completing an Action Research project on intercultural learning across the Academy that involved two teachers and one leadership team member. We also worked as a Lead School for the local Music Hub, delivering CPD sessions for local primary and instrumental teachers and hosted an RBO Create & Design CPD day. TPA actively supports MAKE and represents primary schools on the MK Music Service Partnership Panel.

In March 2026, TPA presented at a University College London (UCL) Institute of Education webinar on intercultural learning and sustainability education in the primary music curriculum and published a blog article on their website. For 2026/27, TPA has been appointed to the Teacher Advisory Board for the national organisation SingUp!

During 2025/26, we introduced TPA Arts Awards from bronze to platinum levels to recognise student commitment to artistic activities. We also established an Arts Leader scheme where ten Year 6 children support and help lead Key Stage One music lessons.

Our full Music Development Plan 2026/27 is designed for internal use and details our curriculum, co-curricular activities and planned developments. Please contact us for further information about the plan or any aspects of music at TPA.