

KS1 & KS2 Primary Schools' Music Festivals 2026

MK Music Service



www.miltonkeynesmusicservice.com

Email: music@milton-keynes.gov.uk

KS1 – Morning Festival – Wednesday 17 June 2026: 10am to 11.15am

KS1 – Afternoon Festival – Wednesday 17 June 2026: 1pm to 2.15pm

KS2 – Afternoon Festival – Tuesday 16 June 2026: 1pm to 2.15pm

At The Ridgeway Centre, Wolverton Mill, MK12 5TH

Find out how to book

Booking opens on **Tuesday 6 January 2026**
places for this popular event will be allocated
on a first come first served basis.

 **Milton Keynes**
City Council

Supported using public funding by
  **ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



A member of
BLMK.
Music Hub

KS1 & KS2 Primary Music Festivals 2026

Please find further information and details of how to book below.

We are delighted to invite you to come along to the Milton Keynes Primary Music Singing Festival 2026.

This year we will be running our festivals in conjunction with Ex-Cathedra again, 'a world-class vocal ensemble which leads the choral sector in the fields of performance, learning and wellbeing' (Ex-Cathedra).

You can find out more about this inspirational organisation from their website - EX CATHEDRA | Education and Participation

After last year's festivals the feedback we received noted that schools would like to learn one song ahead of the festival day. Teachers commented that this one known song could then be used to teach higher-order skills such as dynamics, diction, articulation and timbre. We are happy to facilitate this, and to help teachers prepare their children for the piece we have organised a CPD session. This event will also include support in training a choir, teaching songs in the classroom, the importance of warm-ups, suitable repertoire for Primary school children and vocal health. It will be led Ex Cathedra's Director of Education, Rebecca Ledgard and is on **Friday 13th March 2026 3pm – 5.45pm** at the Church of Christ the Cornerstone (City Church) in Central Milton Keynes. We hope that by having it at this time of day teachers will find it easier to be out of class than if it had been for a whole morning or whole afternoon.

The festivals will be led by experienced and talented vocal leaders who will bring their own live band with them. Material will be available for one year after the event, so we are asking for you to let us know a school email address that can be passed on to Ex-Cathedra for this purpose.

Staff from MK Music Service will notify 'Ex-Cathedra' of the school email address you give us so that you are able to access the songs.

Participating teachers should try to attend the meeting (Primary Music Subject Leaders' Meeting) being held on **Wednesday 21 January 2026** from 3.45pm to 5.00pm at Ousedale School, Newport Pagnell Campus where we will provide more details about the event.

For the KS1 Festival, schools will be able to bring children in **Year 2** (not suitable for children in Foundation or Year 1) and for KS2 children from **Years 4, 5 and 6**.

The charge is per festival and will be £1 per pupil you book a place for. **An invoice will be raised to you for the appropriate charge.** Please note, no refund will be made for cancellation or non-attendance.

Please indicate on the online booking form which Festival you would like to attend (KS1 or KS2) and for the KS1 festival whether you would like to attend the morning or afternoon festival. If your school is attending both KS1 and KS2 festivals, please submit a separate form for each. All applications will be dealt with in the order in which they are received.

- Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- The cost is £1 per pupil place booked. This cost will be invoiced. **Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide a refund if you withdraw or are unable to attend.** **IMPORTANT:** Please could you aim to be as accurate as possible with your numbers and if they vary let us know before the closing date and we will do our best to accommodate you. Seating is precisely allocated to the numbers you book and it may not be possible to add additional places.
- When places have been allocated we will provide you with confirmation of your final numbers.
- Schools may have two adult places per 30 child places, in the festival. If you need to bring more adults to supervise on the journey, then these people may not be able to enter the auditorium due to numbers stipulated by the venue. Should you require extra SEN assistants then please add this to your 'adults' total on the booking form.
- **What to do now: Booking opens Tuesday 6 January 2026.**
<https://miltonkeynesmusicservice.com/primary-music-festival-booking-form/>
Closing date is Wednesday 14 January 2026 and places are allocated first come first served basis.

Please note 'Ex-Cathedra' will be provided with the following information to provide one year's access to the selected songs. Submitting your booking form will mean you have provided agreement for this information to be passed to them, that you are aware of their [Terms & Conditions](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) and that they may email you:

School name, postcode, full name and email address of the relevant teacher/member of staff who will access the songs on 'Ex-Cathedra'.

We look forward to receiving your booking form from Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Nicola Rose and Kate Knight
Music Curriculum Leaders, MK Music Service

IMPORTANT: Could we kindly ask that schools organise their transport early and that parental cars are not used to drop off / collect children.

Previously we had the very difficult situation of parents entering the building looking for their children after the event, a situation we had not been warned about and were not expecting. I am sure you can see how this was a potential safeguarding issue and one that would not be acceptable in schools.

Also, the parents arriving at the end were going against the flow of the considerable amount of traffic the festivals generate, causing traffic jams. We know that transport is expensive but suggest that if coaches cannot be afforded then schools contact other schools in their academy chain/trust or local secondary school and borrow minibuses. Please do not allow parental cars to be used. Thank you.

PRIMARY FESTIVAL TIME LINE

Tuesday 6 January 2026	Booking Opens 9am – <u>Use this link to book</u> (If your school will be coming to both KS1 and KS2 Festivals, please submit ONE FORM PER FESTIVAL)
Wednesday 14 January 2026	<u>Booking Closes 5pm</u>
Wednesday 21 January 2026	Primary Subject Leaders' Meeting being held at Ousedale School, Newport Pagnell Campus from 3.45pm to 5.00pm where we will provide more information about the event.
Friday 13 March 2026	CPD session led by Ex-Cathedra to learn a song to teach to children ahead of the event. 3pm to 5.45pm at Church of Christ the Cornerstone
KS2 Festival Tuesday 16 June 2026	Primary Music Festival for KS2: Ridgeway Centre – 1pm to 2.15pm
KS1 Festivals Wednesday 17 June 2026 (Choice of two festivals)	Primary Music Festival for KS1: Ridgeway Centre - 10am to 11.15am or 1pm to 2.15pm