

Music development plan summary: Beechwood Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	01.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	31.08.27
Name of the school music lead	Josephine Clarke
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Jakeman
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	RockSteady

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.

At Beechwood, children in our nursery and reception classes access music throughout their school day, and children across the school are timetabled and taught one lesson of curriculum music per week. In KS2 and part of the year in Year 2, this lesson is taught by a musical specialist each week.

Our curriculum music lessons are a bespoke curriculum featuring half termly units, which are aligned with the National Curriculum and draw additionally from the model music curriculum guidance to enhance and embed music appreciation and listening skills. Music lessons provide challenging, stimulating lessons for all children, giving them access to a wide range of instruments, varied opportunities to sing and exposure to a wide range of musical styles and traditions.

Observations have shown all are pupils engaged and active during the lessons, including those with SEND, while discussions with children have demonstrated an increasing knowledge of key music vocabulary as they progress through the school.

Children have access to a wide range of instruments throughout their music curriculum, including tuned and untuned percussion. From Year 2 onwards, children learn to play the glockenspiel, developing their understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch and musical notation through progressively challenging repertoire. In Years 5 and 6, the recorder is introduced to further develop melodic playing, breath control and ensemble performance skills. In Key Stage 2, children also use digital music-making software to compose, perform and record music. In Years 4 and 5, children take part in First Access whole-class brass instrument tuition for 10 weeks, with the opportunity to continue learning through small-group co-curricular lessons following this.

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 have the opportunity to join musical theatre to further develop their musical skills at no additional cost. The musical theatre performs in school assemblies and also takes part in a range of wider performance opportunities, including events beyond school such as visits to local care homes, providing pupils with a rich and meaningful musical experience.

From Year 4 onwards, children can access small-group instrumental tuition following their First Access whole-class brass programme. The cost of this provision is subsidised through a continuation grant from the Love Music Trust. Instruments can be hired from the Love Music Trust for a small monthly fee, with reduced rates available for Pupil Premium pupils.

Children can also take part in Rocksteady lessons, delivered by an external provider who run weekly sessions in school. Pupils learn to play a range of instruments, including keyboard, guitar and drums, developing their musical skills in a band setting. They perform once a term in front of the school and their parents, providing regular opportunities to build confidence and showcase their progress. Progress and skill development are tracked by the Rocksteady teacher.

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.

At Beechwood, we believe that music holds equal value for both the performer and the listener, and we encourage all children to develop as confident and expressive musicians. To support this ethos, we provide a wide range of performance opportunities throughout the year, many of which are subsidised by the school.

Children regularly sing in assemblies for both their own enjoyment and to entertain others. Choirs perform each term to showcase their learning, promote participation in co-curricular tuition, and, most importantly, to enjoy the experience of performing.

Each year, the musical theatre group takes part in Crewe Out Loud, a celebration of the arts that brings together schools across Crewe. Children rehearse and perform alongside others in massed choirs, representing their school in a wide range of artistic experiences.

In Year 5, children take part in Amasing, performing on stage at a local theatre in front of a large audience and live orchestra, alongside pupils from other schools.

Pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 all take part in a nativity or school production performed to parents, which includes a strong emphasis on singing and musical performance.

In the winter term, children have the opportunity to attend a live pantomime performance at a small cost, helping them to develop an understanding of the difference between live and recorded performance. There are also opportunities to visit London to experience a live musical in the West End.

Across the year, children take part in a variety of live workshops and performances, including drumming, brass and Conductive Music sessions, where they use technology to create and explore their own music. These experiences provide enrichment, enjoyment and valuable musical development. The children also have the opportunity to watch a live orchestra perform.

In Year 6, pupils also visit an opera house, where they take part in workshops and explore behind-the-scenes areas such as lighting, staging and wardrobe, gaining a deeper understanding of how professional productions are created.

A small group of children also perform with and watch the Halle perform at Bridgewater Hall.

In the future

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

Looking forward, our priorities for music at Beechwood are:

- Increase staff confidence in delivering curriculum music.

- Increase the children's musical vocabulary and understanding.

We would also like to:

- Further develop singing during assemblies.
- Develop the children's confidence in performing to a wider audience.
- Increase the number of performances and musical experiences children are exposed to through workshops and live performances.

Staff are developing their confidence with using the Model Music curriculum guidance to introduce children to a range of musical styles and traditions. Our plan is to empower those delivering music to grow in confidence, incorporating their own tastes and knowledge into the lessons beyond the recommendations of the MMC, to further broaden the children's range of experiences.

Beechwood's musical theatre group is in its infancy. Our plan is to grow this so that it become a standout feature of the school.