Birchwood Avenue Primary School

Music Development Plan

2026-2027

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Joe Connolly
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emma Hall
Name of local music hub	Herts Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Hatfield House Music Festival, Music Mark

This is a summary of how Birchwood Avenue Primary School delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

Birchwood Avenue Primary School has a commitment to Music and the Arts. This contributes to having an appreciation of music, dance and drama as essential elements of cultural capital. We place great value on children to express themselves through the arts, dance and drama.

Our Whole School Music Curriculum covers the requirements as laid out in the National Curriculum. You can see the school overview on our school website at: Music | Birchwood Avenue Primary School.

At Birchwood Avenue Primary School, we have a strong commitment to music and the arts as an important part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Music contributes significantly to pupils' cultural capital and provides opportunities for creativity, self-expression, collaboration and performance.

From September 2026, we follow the **Kapow Primary Music Scheme**, which fulfils the requirements of the National Curriculum and has been carefully sequenced to ensure progression in musical knowledge and skills from Reception to Year 6. The curriculum develops pupils' understanding through five key areas:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- Inter-related dimensions of music

The curriculum enables pupils to progressively develop their understanding of:

- Pulse
- Rhythm
- Pitch
- Tempo
- Dynamics
- Timbre
- Texture
- Structure
- Musical notation

Children experience a wide range of musical styles, traditions and cultures throughout their time at Birchwood Avenue, including jazz, blues, samba, rock and roll, baroque

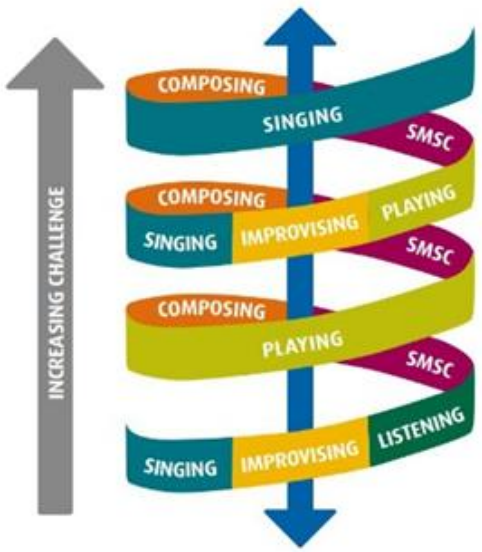
music, musical theatre, South and West African music, Indian music and music associated with significant historical periods and cultures.

The curriculum is carefully sequenced so that pupils revisit and build upon prior learning. For example:

- EYFS pupils explore sound-making, movement, singing and instruments.
- KS1 pupils begin to recognise pulse, tempo, pitch and dynamics through singing, listening and performance.
- Lower KS2 pupils develop composition and improvisation skills through projects linked to topics such as rainforests, rivers, Vikings, Chinese New Year and jazz.
- Upper KS2 pupils deepen their understanding of notation, musical genres, composition, film music, baroque music and musical theatre whilst developing increasingly sophisticated performance skills.

All pupils receive at least one hour of music teaching each week, including classroom music and singing assemblies. Singing remains an essential part of our curriculum and pupils regularly perform both individually and collaboratively.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including those with SEND, can access and succeed in music through appropriate adaptations, scaffolding, specialist equipment and inclusive teaching approaches.



Singing

Composing

Improvising

Playing

Critical engagement (focussed listening)

Social, moral, spiritual, and cultural (SMSC)

Pupils with SEND

We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will

enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music. They are supported through adaptations, such as larger / smaller instruments, specialist equipment for physical impairments, removing unnecessary keys etc. Teachers plan adaptation so that all children can be included.

Part B: Extra-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.

To complement our class curriculum music lessons, we provide a wide variety of extra-curricular music opportunities at Birchwood Avenue. All of these activities are open to every child regardless of ability. We will be exploring how to support with the cost of lessons and for instruments to be loaned from the music hub.

Instrumental lessons

Currently we offer one to one and small group tuition in brass instruments and guitar and we are investigating the possibility of introducing other instruments. To encourage this, we will be liaising with Herts Music Service to see if we can set up some instrumental taster sessions. In the longer term we aim to develop further and set up small ensembles so that children have the opportunity to rehearse perform together.

At Birchwood Avenue we work closely with Hertfordshire Music Service who provide whole class 'first access' instrumental lessons for one term per year for Y4 children and the school funds the other two terms of weekly steel pan lessons. This is offered in addition to their regular curriculum music provision.

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.

In addition to planned curriculum time for music, children also have additional musical experiences, sometimes the whole school together, sometimes individually, which occur during the school year and contribute to the overall planning and time allocation for music.

Across all key stages, children have a range of opportunities to experience live musical theatre performances courtesy of a visiting theatre company and to take part in musical performances, such as Christmas plays and nativities, UKS2 Summer

performance, and Arts focused outcome events. There will also be a termly 'Music Sharing Assembly' with an opportunity for each class to showcase their learning to the school community; parents are warmly welcomed to this. Working towards a performance of this kind can be very motivating for children and gives a great opportunity to observe the progression of musical learning in the school.

Birchwood Avenue Primary School is proud to be participating in the **Hatfield House Music Festival Schools Composition Project**.

This exciting project provides a unique opportunity for our pupils to work alongside professional musicians and composers. During the Summer Term, Year 5 pupils will visit Hatfield House and gain access to historical archive materials that are not usually available to the public. As part of the project, pupils will learn about the life and music of **John Dowland**, whose connections to Hatfield House and the Cecil family provide a rich historical context for their musical learning.

In the Autumn Term, when the pupils move into Year 6, they will participate in three half-day composition workshops led by renowned jazz musician and composer **Pete Letanka**. During these workshops, pupils will compose and refine original musical pieces inspired by their learning.

The project will culminate in a public performance at the **Hatfield House Music Festival Schools Concert** at **St Etheldreda's Church**, providing pupils with an authentic audience and a memorable opportunity to perform music they have created themselves.

This project aligns closely with our curriculum aims of developing creativity, composition skills, musical appreciation and cultural capital whilst enabling pupils to experience music beyond the classroom.

Pupils also have an annual visit from Rocksteady which gives children the opportunity to learn important life lessons in a fun way through high energy rockstar workshops. This is also to try to raise the numbers of pupils receiving music lessons. The school will hold its annual 'Birchwood's Got Talent' show which is organised by pupil leadership- Head/Deputy head boy and girl with support from headteacher.

Music is incorporated into a variety of activities and events within school, such as weekly assemblies, classroom routines and special celebrations. There is a weekly whole school singing assembly led by teaching staff during which children can further develop their singing skills and enjoy a wide variety of songs from different era, genres and countries. Singing assemblies provide the opportunity to learn and rehearse songs for the various festivals and events which take place throughout the year, and also enjoy the experience of group singing for its own sake.

The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition.

Parents and carers actively support music making, through support at events and through home learning.

In the future

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

Continue to strengthen partnership working with Hertfordshire Music Service.

Maintain involvement in the Hatfield House Music Festival and seek additional local performance opportunities.

Develop opportunities for pupils to perform and compose using music technology.

Increase participation of disadvantaged pupils in extracurricular music through targeted financial support.

Further develop staff confidence in singing and music-making through high-quality CPD.

Continue our membership and engagement with Music Mark and other music education networks.

Expand opportunities for live music experiences and workshops with professional musicians.

Performance opportunities – broaden the range of performance opportunities for children in school and beyond for parents to attend: Young Voices, for visiting music teachers' students, choir and music ensemble; class music assemblies for parents showcasing music curriculum music; Nativities and class/key stage productions.

Musical engagement with feeder secondary schools– look for opportunities to work with feeder secondary school for transition. We will be investigating the possibly of inviting local ensembles and musicians into school so that children are able to hear and see real musicians performing live.

Further information (optional)

The **Department for Education** publishes a guide for parents and young people on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

CPD - We value the importance of quality first teaching and recognise the need for teachers to have a strong subject knowledge in music. Ongoing CPD is provided to teachers in the form of teacher videos for each music unit throughout the scheme. Teachers of classes who receive whole class instrumental tuition will take part in the music lessons and develop their subject knowledge through learning a musical instrument alongside the class. Staff can access training via National College Online.