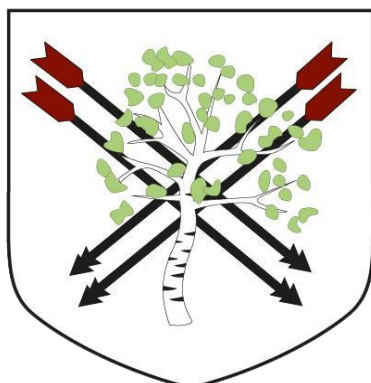


Birchwood Avenue Primary School



Music Development Plan 2025-2026

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-20256
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
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)	

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.

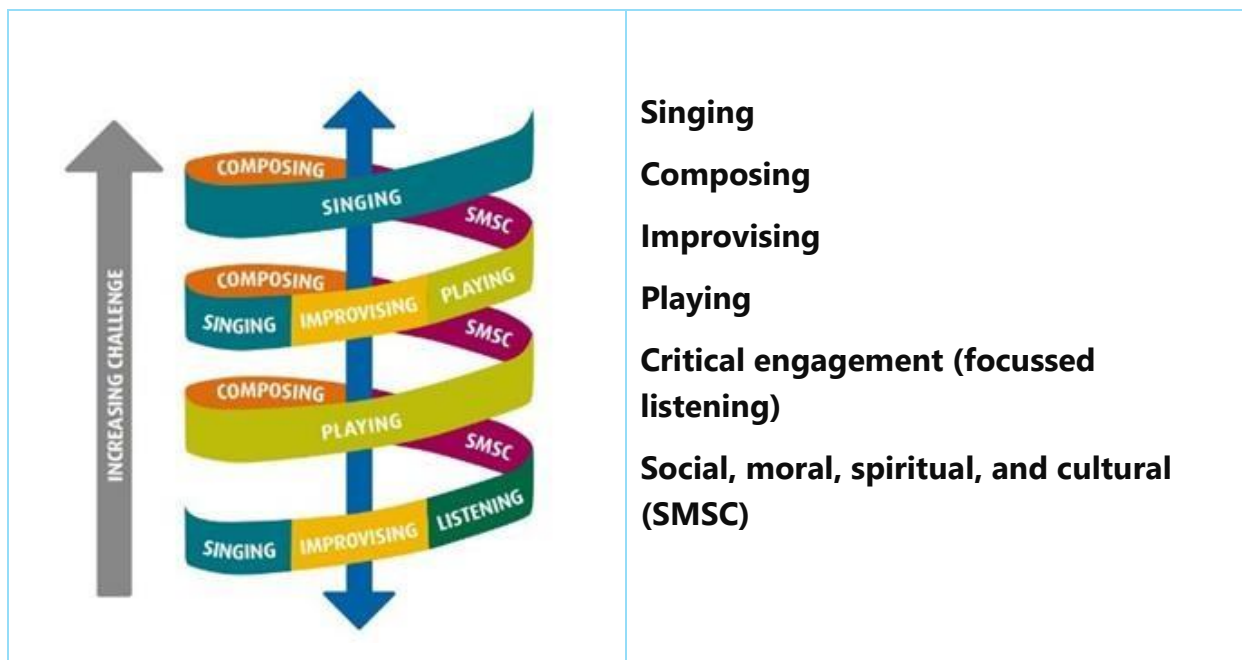
Part A: Curriculum music

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 music subject leader works closely with our specialist music teacher who delivers the music lessons from Reception class to Year 6. 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 follow a bespoke written music curriculum created by our music specialist Mr J Pettifer. It has been designed to follow the National Curriculum and includes many elements taken from the 2021 Model Music Curriculum. The curriculum has been edited and refined over several years to ensure measurable, inclusive progression from Early Years through to Year 6. Unlike some subjects, progression in music is known to be non-linear i.e. the same skills grow and develop at different rates and need constant revisiting. To accommodate this our music curriculum at Birchwood Avenue operates on a spiral model. This ensures that children through the key stages are regularly revisiting and developing core musical skills which directly relate to the National Curriculum:



Class music lessons in Early Years and Key Stage 1 are based on Kodaly methodology which centres around the use of movement, action songs and singing games to

introduce and develop core musical skills which will provide a foundation for broader musical development in Key Stage 2.

Music in the Early Years

The children begin their music journey in Reception through Child Initiated activities and planned curriculum music either with EYFS practitioners or our specialist music teacher. They explore singing, playing and composing. They have access to a range of musical instruments to explore both in and out of doors. The children learn Nursery Rhymes and short rhythms and patterns. They also attend the school Singing Assembly where we learn whole-school songs. Music is on the school timetable for 1 hour a week, which is a combination of music lessons and singing. SLT plan timetables to ensure that this happens. The children begin to have access to glockenspiels as whole class instruments.

We teach music in Foundation Stage as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the Foundation Stage Framework (2014). We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. 'Counting Songs' foster a child's mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. Children's standards and achievements in Music are assessed in line with the School's Assessment Policy.

Key Stage 1 and 2

Music in Key Stage 1 and 2 is timetabled for one hour. This includes a music lesson and a singing assembly. As the curriculum progresses, the children have a wider access to a range of whole class instruments; these include glockenspiels, recorders and untuned percussion.

Our curriculum introduces children to music from all around the world and across generations, thereby helping them to develop an understanding of the history and cultural context of the music that they listen to and teaching them to respect and appreciate the music of all traditions and communities.

Pupils are taught musical notation and how to compose music. Composing or performing using body percussion and vocal sounds is also part of the curriculum, which develops the understanding of musical elements without the added complexity of an instrument. As children progress through the school, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. We often teach these together.

We also teach children how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. Through music, our curriculum helps children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making, and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school.

All lessons include some singing and playing. At the end of each unit of learning the children learn to sing and perform a song.

In Key Stage 2, the children begin to expand their range of whole class instruments. In Year 4, the children learn to play the steel drums. This is part of first access programme and the lessons are weekly, delivered by a music specialist at Herts Music Centre which is next door to our school. The children enjoy this and share their progress with parents in a performance.

Over their course of study, the children learn more complex melodies and rhythms that are sung and played. The singing curriculum is supported by whole-school singing once a week. This is a combination of new songs and recapping previously taught ones. There is a whole school programme. This allows the children to sing a wide range of songs as whole songs, rounds and in parts.

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 extracurricular 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.

School Choir

A lunchtime choir led by Mr Pettifer is held every week and open to all KS 2 children. The choir rehearses a wide variety of material ranging from religious music, songs from different cultures around the world and modern pop songs. This gives opportunities for children to perform at many different events throughout the school year.

Planned Choir events for next year-

- Local care home
- Local Christmas Carols
- School event
- Harvest Festival

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.

Pupils also have a termly performance. Many pupils from year's 1 to 6 perform within Rocksteady which gives children the opportunity to learn important life lessons in a fun way through high energy rockstar workshops. These are well attended by parents and guardians. 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 Mr Pettifer during which children can further develop their singing skills and enjoy a wide variety of songs both spiritual and secular. 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

Pupil Premium – Continue to maintain the register of Pupil Premium children engaged in extracurricular music activities; review budget and ensure equality of provision for children who cannot afford to access paid-for provision. Allocating some of the pupil premium grant to fun places within Rocksteady.

'Musician of the Month'- to celebrate music and artists from other cultures and periods in history. These change monthly, where the children are introduced to a new artist and some of their background. In the weekly newsletter, additional information and listening excerpts to be given for the children to listen to. On Friday's Celebration Assembly, there will be a planned programme of listening, ranging from, Early Baroque to modern day.

CPD and capacity planning – plan CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in singing in the classroom and delivery. 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.

During the 2025/26 school year we plan to expand the offer of small group and **individual instrumental lessons** to children by options for different instruments.

Eventually we would like to create a small ensemble or orchestra so that instrument learners have a chance to perform in groups

Links with external music organisations – to support recruitment of children for instrumental and after school activities, alongside inspiring future musicians and opportunity to see a live concert. What are the opportunities? Maintain ongoing contact. Music Mark Membership.

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 possibility of inviting local ensembles and musicians into school so that children are able to hear and see real musicians performing live.

Additional funding from hub/charities/fundraising – proactively try to find additional funding for music (e.g. PTA; local charities; fundraising in school from performances etc.)

To work more **collaboratively** with Herts Music Centre.

To continue to be a 'Music Mark School'.