Music development plan summary: St Laurence Church Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	18/9/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs S. Camwell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Music Education Partnership- Services for Education
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Our Music curriculum is taught in units every other Half Term throughout the year. Music lessons are timetabled for a minimum of an hour a week in half terms when the subject is being taught. Furthermore, all children access a curriculum-based Music assembly each week throughout the year, during which they learn about notable musicians from a range of time periods, cultures and genres, as well as honing their skills in group singing as part of the whole-school community, and their understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music.

Music throughout the school is mainly taught using 'Charanga', a scheme which provides rigorous coverage of the National Curriculum objectives. The scheme takes an integrated approach to the teaching of the different elements of music, in line with

best practice. Where beneficial, the topics chosen are linked to the theme the class is working on for that half term. Learning is revisited regularly to ensure that children are confident in their understanding. We also include elements of the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) to further enhance the depth of the children's subject knowledge and the breadth of their musical experience. There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each teaching unit. We plan for full and robust coverage of the National Curriculum for Music, including all the key elements:

- Singing
- Playing tuned and untuned instruments
- Listening to recorded and live music
- Composing and improvising (using the interrelated dimensions of music)
- Understanding music history
- Understanding notation

The planned progression built into the scheme of work means that the children are increasingly challenged as they move through the school. Resources are adapted appropriately to ensure that all pupils have equal access to, and experience success in, musical learning. IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access- is central to the structure and format of the Charanga resource and teachers ensure that learning is accessible to all. Children are given opportunities throughout KS2 to develop their skills in singing, playing the glockenspiel and the ukulele. All children sing and play an instrument in an ensemble setting in their music lessons. Some pupils in Year 6 may choose to work towards a qualification in digital composition. All children are encouraged to participate in performances within music lessons as well as whole-school sharing assemblies.

Through our 'Musician of the Month' initiative, as well as the Charanga scheme and other regular listening opportunities throughout the year, children experience a wide range of music from many genres, both in terms of live performance and recorded music. They are then given the opportunity to appraise and feed back their thoughts about the music in an open, judgment-free environment. This experience contributes significantly to their 'cultural capital'.

We work closely with the Music Service and Charanga trainers to ensure that staff are confident in their subject knowledge and that teaching reflects current pedagogical research and best practice. We have also been awarded 'Music Mark' accreditation, for our commitment to high-quality music education for all pupils.

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.

We offer small-group tuition in recorder, woodwind, keyboard and guitar, as well as the opportunity to sign up for weekly 'Rocksteady' rock band sessions. Instrumental lessons are charged at £8.50 per 20-minute lesson, with the cost reduced by half for those who are eligible for pupil premium funding. The children are loaned an instrument to practise on at home for free and can work towards medals and certificates. Rocksteady is charged on a rolling monthly subscription of £44.68 and sessions are 30 minutes long. The school can nominate one child for a fully funded bursary place each year.

We are fortunate to run a Recorder Ensemble in school, which is provided free of charge by the Music Service and performs in prestigious venues across the city.

We also have a thriving choir of roughly 80 pupils, again free of charge, which is open to all children. The choir participates in many and varied projects throughout the year, including working with Birmingham's own 'Black Voices' to prepare for a carnival performance, working with Ex Cathedra and a music producer on a 'Singing Playgrounds' video project, collaborating with other schools in the Fioretti Trust, singing Christmas carols at a local hospital and our annual Summer Term highlight of performing at the Youth Proms in July at the Symphony Hall.

All children have access to the Charanga 'Yumu' platform, enabling them to continue their music-making and learning at home. We have this year increased the use of music creation software, otherwise known as a DAW, in our curriculum provision, to reflect the evolution of the industry our children may choose to work in. We also regularly share details of the many fantastic musical opportunities available to the children outside of school, with lots of children joining choirs, ensembles and music-making workshops in their own time. See 'Further Information' at the bottom of this document.

The school is a 'Lead School for Music' in the city and works very closely with the Birmingham Music Educational Hub (BMEH), sharing good practice with other schools, as well as benefiting from access to a broad range of resources and opportunities from Hub partners including (but not limited to) Ex Cathedra, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, the CBSO and B: Music. As a church school, we also undertake projects

within the Diocese, including working with the Diocesan Music Director to prepare for performances at St Philip's Cathedral.

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.

Our intention is to always be a school where music-making feeds into the wider ethos and sense of community. Singing has been proven to have a hugely beneficial impact on pupils' wellbeing, confidence, learning, health and social development. We embrace this as a school.

Children sing in almost every collective worship session. They learn to sing in unison and in parts, maintaining harmonies. They experience the joy of singing in a large group and develop their vocal technique through structured, high-quality, whole-school teaching of singing.

Each week, we feature a 'Musician of the Week' in Friday's Collective Worship. All children have the opportunity to represent their class in these weekly whole-school performances, whether they are a beginner or an experienced player, and they are supported and celebrated by the whole school community.

All classes participate in a year-group production and class assembly each year, again enabling them to engage in high-quality group singing as well as developing their self-confidence and acting skills.

All children can join the choir and we are often able to take the choir out to perform at wonderful venues and to work with industry professionals for next to no cost to parents, due to funding from partners and the support of our governing body.

Our Year 5 children attend a concert at the CBSO each year, gaining a real appreciation of the incredible musical talent and world-leading venues that they have access to in our city.

We also make the most of our links with local secondary schools, inviting individuals and ensembles to come and perform at our school and share information about the instruments they have chosen to play.

Each term, our instrumental and Rocksteady pupils put on concerts where they share their progress with pupils, staff and parents. The peripatetic staff often also perform a solo. This is a wonderful way for the children to experience a wide range of live music performances and often inspires new recruits to sign up!

Our local Music Hub (BMEH) is fantastic and we work very closely with partners who facilitate whole-school projects, such as Ex Cathedra, who trained up our Song Leaders for our 'Singing Playgrounds' project- enabling all children to get involved in

singing play outdoors- and the CBSO, who have visited school to deliver interactive, curriculum-based learning workshops for all year groups. Both of these projects were funded by the school and Arts Council funding.

In the future

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

Going forward, we plan to further increase the children's access to high-quality, live music performances by taking more children out to experience live music venues.

We will further implement elements of the Digital Music Curriculum as part of our programme to roll this out whole-school and all staff will receive training on using the Charanga Yu Studio platform.

Our children will all have the opportunity to feature in a trust-wide collaborative singing project with the other 7 schools in the Fioretti Trust. They will work with staff from the BBC, learning about the skills involved in recording and producing a large-scale project.

We will carry out further monitoring and evaluation to ensure that Music is inclusive and accessible to all, particularly in light of the recent changes to Pupil Premium funding.

Further information

Music Hub: Home Page - Birmingham Music Education Partnership (sfebmep.co.uk)

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.

Ex Cathedra Academy of Vocal Music- click here for more information about how to join the training choirs: EX CATHEDRA | Academy of Vocal Music

For information about how to join the **Music Service's Central Ensembles**: Central Ensembles - Services For Education - The Music Service

MAC Makes Music provides inclusive music events and workshops for children and young people: MAC Makes Music | Midlands Arts Centre (macbirmingham.co.uk)

Quench Arts is passionate about making a positive difference through the arts. Activities focus on using the arts, and specifically music, as a tool to achieve social change: Opportunities | quencharts (quench-arts.co.uk)

The CBSO runs some reasonably-priced concerts and workshops for families and younger audiences: Families | City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (cbso.co.uk)

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group has an all-year-round programme of **free** creative music workshops for young people. These workshops are suitable for all ages and abilities: Free Events for Young People in Birmingham | Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (bcmg.org.uk)

From great music to captivating speakers, there's something for everyone on the **BCU** events calendar: What's On - Concerts and Events - Royal Birmingham Conservatoire | Birmingham City University (bcu.ac.uk)

B: Music- Whether you're a beginner or an advanced musician, check out the many ways you can make music with us (For age 11+): Children and Young People | B:Music (bmusic.co.uk)