

Music development plan summary: St Barnabas Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2027
Date this summary was published	March 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	March 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lauren Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lauren Clark
Name of local music hub	Wiltshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

We follow Charanga to ensure that we develop the knowledge and skills of:

- Performing
- Listening
- Composing
- The history of music
- Inter-related dimensions of music: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, texture, structure, timbre

We teach 45 minutes to 60 minutes a week of timetabled curriculum music and aim to inspire and ignite a passion for all things musical while ensuring music is an integral part of school life.

We are fortunate to have a specialist music teacher who teaches violin to all pupils in Year 3 and Year 4, with provision recently extended into Year 5 as an enrichment to the National Curriculum. This instrumental programme supports the statutory aims of the UK Music National Curriculum by enabling pupils to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music, and to develop a better understanding of musical notation.

Through learning the violin, children read and interpret standard musical notation, develop technical control of an instrument, and apply key musical vocabulary in a practical and meaningful context. This hands-on approach allows pupils to build both declarative knowledge (understanding musical concepts and language) and procedural knowledge (applying skills through performance).

Each unit of work has an on-going musical learning focus and lessons usually follow a specific learning sequence:

- Understanding and Listening
- Notation and the Elements of Music (Pulse, Rhythm, Pitch, Tempo, Dynamics, Texture, Harmony, Expression)
- Singing
- Playing instruments
- Improvisation and Composition
- Perform

Our progression model follows the same learning sequence to ensure all interrelated elements of music are repeated and embedded as the children move through the school.

Within Early Years, music is an integral part of children's learning journey. Rhyme and rhythm are utilised throughout the learning of phonics, handwriting and mathematics. Children learn a wide range of songs and rhymes and develop skills for performing together. Singing and music making opportunities are used frequently to embed learning, develop musical awareness and to demonstrate how music can be used to express feelings.

All children are also able to take individual music lessons on piano or violin with our visiting music teacher (for a fee, however the school can support low income families to access these). Opportunities are also available for children to join enrichment opportunities such as a choir club in preparation for attending Voice in a Million.

In our whole school assemblies, music is planned for the year ahead to ensure that all our children are exposed to a wide range of type and genre of music. We have a composer of the term that celebrates both historical and modern composers across genres. We also plan a weekly singing assembly where the children are given the opportunity to sing as part of a larger whole school group together. We also visit songs and music that are more frequent at particular times of the year for celebrations such as Christmas and Harvest Festival.

As part of our wider curriculum, there are opportunities for our children planned in to take part in productions to showcase their learning. Into these productions music and group singing is planned to enhance learning and exposure to further musical genres and experiences.

Every two years there are planned Pantomime visits to ensure the children experience a more comedic and storytelling musical genre on the stage alongside those experienced in school.

We also extend the children's experience of music by linking cross curricular where appropriate.

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.

We support our curriculum with a range of co-curricular music which includes the following:

We invite visitors into school to support the curriculum through their use of music. We have experienced:

- Taking children to the trust EQUA Mead Music Festival
- Participating in Voice in a Million, singing with 6000 other children in Wembley Arena.

We offer at least once a year extra-curricular opportunities such as choir club for children to prepare for the singing events which enables further opportunities for musical expansion and development.

We also involve our children's parents in our co-curricular music where we can, such as celebrating Christmas with Christmas Carols in St Barnabas Church, where parents join us to both listen and sing along with Christmas songs of our time and some more traditional Christmas Carols. We also invite anyone from the local community to come to this service and embody the school values of

aspiration, belonging and love. In the run up to Christmas, KS2 children can volunteer to be in a choir to support the KS1 Christmas Nativity performance and sing their songs with them.

Harvest Festival is also celebrated by the children through singing alongside celebrating the collection of food for our local food bank.

When opportunities arise, we have joined Dauntsey's School to sing along with their school orchestra for Christmas performances as well as a summer concert for Devizes area schools held at Lavington School – both free to attend.

Our Year 6 children practice and sing at their leaver's celebration assembly and as part of their Leavers Play. The event is celebrated with families and friends and gives our eldest children the opportunity to celebrate and share hopes and dreams through music.

We have previously had therapeutic music sessions with a Music Therapist for children who have been referred for this service for their own personal social and emotional development.

We also have our visiting Music teacher offering individual music lessons on violin and piano for children who express an interest, or the teacher notices a child with an aptitude for the instrument and will ask the class teacher to approach parents to encourage their child to try individual lessons.

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 children take part in a singing assembly each week. The children come together across both key stages and have the opportunity to sing as a whole school group. They are immersed in a variety of music and singing, the more traditional and some more modern.

KS1 have their nativity performances (and Nursery children join for the performance of a song) and KS2 can sing as a choir if they wish. Upper Key Stage 2 have a yearly summer performance as part of the Year 6s leaving celebrations.

Christmas Carols at St Barnabas Church is an event enjoyed by children, families and anyone from the local community who wishes to attend.

Every two years, all our children visit a Christmas pantomime. This allows our children to experience watching a live performance that will include individual and ensemble singing performances in a 'pantomime' genre.

Enrichment of the music curriculum is looked at and trips planned, with Year 3 and Year 4 children attending the touring West End show 'Matilda The Musical' to align with their music topic.

We have an adult recorder group come into school once a year for the children to see and experience real music and a variety of instruments.

We aim to ensure that all our music activities are inclusive for all our children, enabling everyone to experience our co-curricular, and curricular music in its entirety. To this end, we offer all activities to all our children while also understanding that our children have individual needs.

In the future

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

Going forwards, we will be investigate how we can use further music teachers in school with our children, currently we have a teacher offering violin and piano but there could be opportunity for other ins.

We will look at any local music events that are school could join, and that would give a purpose for a choir club to run more regularly.