



Music Development Plan Summary: Beechview Academy

Overview

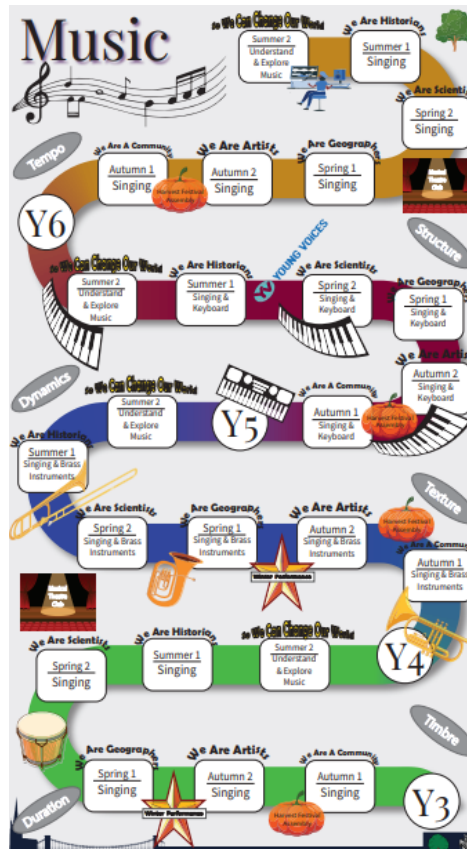
Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss L Tarbuck
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs L Parry-Woolner
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
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.

Music can have a profound, positive impact on the lives of people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures, worldwide. At Beechview Academy, we recognise there can be a number of barriers to children's learning and progression in music; this includes a lack of access to musical instruments and experiences of live musical performances. At Beechview, we aim to provide a high-quality, engaging music curriculum which inspires pupils and enables them to develop their self-confidence, nurtures their creativity and allows for individual progression within musical understanding and excellency, whichever stage in their musical learning they may be.

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.



This is our Music Learning Journey at Beechview Academy. It is based on a progressive, spiral curriculum which supports children’s learning at all stages of their primary education, within the different aspects of music.

Beechview Academy is a Junior School teaching Years 3-6 (KS2). Each year group receives a half-hour singing lesson each week. The Music Lead and/or a specialist teacher work with each year group on pieces which are relevant for their half-term topic, as well as their overall year group focus which is based on the progression of skills in our music curriculum. Class teachers then delve deeper into these pieces with the children, working with the Music Lead to teach the history and understanding of the music through listening and other activities, in a number of 15-minute sessions spread across each half term, as well as sessions exploring the interrelated dimensions of music (Year 6 have a greater focus on this aspect during the summer term, with a particular focus on composition and performance). Additionally, the children learn songs relevant to certain celebrations, such as for Harvest Festival and Christmas. We also provide Whole Class Practical Musicianship (WCPM) lessons, which are referred to in more detail below. Furthermore, lessons are in-line with the National Curriculum objectives for KS2 Music, as well as being partially informed by the Department of Education’s Model Music Curriculum (2021) and National Plan for Music Education (2023); we aim to strengthen these connections further.

Pupils with special educational needs (SEND) are supported across their learning at Beechview, including in music lessons. We have a number of strategies in place for supporting these children, including using ear defenders to support sensory needs.

Please see the following links for more information on our SEND support:

<https://www.beechview.org.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=42>

<https://www.beechview.org.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=14>

We aim to implement 1:1 or small ensemble music lessons with peripatetic teachers in the near future, for all year groups, whereby children can learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time.

Beechview Academy is partnered with Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, as part of the Marlow Education Trust, and each year the schools work together to support some of the musical experiences arranged for our primary-aged children (such as school musical and dance performances). Beechview also works closely with our local music hub, Buckinghamshire Music Trust (BMT), for WCPM as well as curriculum guidance and, hopefully in the near future, additional peripatetic music lessons.

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.

At Beechview, we have been re-building our music curriculum to provide a more coherent and dynamic musical education for our pupils. We have a weekly whole-school singing assembly for 15 minutes with a specialist teacher and/or the Music Lead (which takes place after the half-hour singing lessons each year group receives), as well as WCPM lessons: Year 3 receive a drumming workshop; Year 4 receive weekly brass instrument lessons (for a minimum of 33 weeks) with a specialist teacher; and Year 5 have weekly keyboard lessons (also for a minimum of 33 weeks with a specialist teacher). The specialist WCPM teachers are from BMT. As above, Year 6 have a greater focus on composition and performance with their Class Teachers leading this, with support from the Music Lead.

Our weekly Celebration Assemblies begin and end with music from different eras and genres that match each half term's whole-school topic. Musical choices are spoken about in the assemblies to expose children to new musical knowledge and broaden this over time.

There is an after school Musical Theatre club which takes place weekly and is run by the Music Lead and specialist singing/music teacher. This is an optional club which is available for all children across the school. More details about this are given in Part C below. Our music lessons and club rehearsals take place in the dedicated Music classroom, the school hall and, where relevant, classrooms.

We work closely with our local music hub, BMT, and colleagues at Borlase (particularly our specialist singing/music teacher) to support co-curricular music at Beechview.

We have shared information with families over recent academic years regarding music lessons for our pupils (one-to-one and ensembles) available outside of school, such as Saturday music centres, through BMT or other local groups. Our aim is to provide peripatetic lessons and/or create music groups through BMT and Rocksteady in school in the near future.

Within WCPM lessons, and our other music lessons and clubs in school, care is given in providing equity for all pupils - including those with Pupil Premium eligibility and SEND. All children are able to access the music learning provided and families are supported where necessary. (This support would also be available with, for example, Rocksteady in the future.)

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 Beechview, we pride ourselves on providing a number of enriching musical experiences throughout each academic year. These greatly improve pupils' cultural capital, which is of particular importance to us in supporting our school demographic.

Regular events planned throughout the year include: whole-school singing assemblies (weekly); a whole-school Harvest Festival performance; a Year 3 and 4 Nativity production; a whole-school Christmas carol/singing performance; and half-termly performances by each year group, sharing the songs they have been learning.

These performances take place in front of the whole school as well as, frequently, parents and carers, governors and other visitors (such as local charities). At Beechview, we are pleased to share these performances with our school community and provide children with the experience of, and skills developed through, performing to and with others. For relevant performances, such as Christmas carol performances, parents and other guests are encouraged to sing along with the children.

Other performances and experiences we have organised in recent years, or arrange where appropriate, include being invited to perform at the High Wycombe Mayor's Christmas Carol Service in the town centre - performing to the public as well as our choir's (Year 5 - with optional participation) families - and school performances for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and King's Coronation which involved all children and were performed to families, governors and other members of our school community. During our Coronation Celebration, a group of Year 4 pupils learning brass instruments performed alongside the rest of the school singing.

Almost all of our performances are supported by live music - usually, our specialist singing teacher plays the piano but, on occasion, he is supported by additional musicians, too. For example, our Year 3 and 4 Nativity in 2023 was performed alongside a group of live musicians playing piano, guitar and drums.

A particularly memorable aspect of our musical calendar is our involvement in a large singing event - in 2022, this was Echoes 9 at the Royal Albert Hall (run by BMT and involving around 40 local Buckinghamshire schools) and, in each year since, we have participated in Young Voices, whereby our pupils sing in a choir of approximately 9,000 children to a full arena of around 20,000 people, at the O2 Arena in London (alongside live, professional musicians, dancers and professional lighting and production teams). These events involve our Year 5 pupils and are led by our Music Lead, with support from our specialist singing teacher. The annual experience is optional but remains a popular choice amongst our pupils and their families, who have the option to attend the concert in the audience to watch their children perform. In the months prior to the concert, pupils are taught the songs (and choreography) during their weekly singing lessons, as well as during additional rehearsals provided in-school by the Music Lead in the weeks leading up to the event; following the concert, the choir perform to the rest of the school in a number of assemblies, to share their achievement and the diverse repertoire. We have found this consistently inspires other pupils to take part in subsequent years.

Through our in-school singing and Young Voices events, the children at Beechview are exposed to a wide range of music from different genres, musicians and countries around the world - sometimes singing in other languages or with BSL - providing them with a rich, broad and diverse musical education.

Our Musical Theatre club (as mentioned in Part B) takes place weekly and is an optional club available to pupils from all year groups. Rehearsals take place over two terms, followed by a professional performance with features including costumes, props, lighting, live music, microphones and sound effects. Our performance takes place in the theatre at Borlase, our partner school in the Trust, which strengthens the link between our two schools and the opportunity for greater musical theatre experience for pupils at both schools (older pupils at Borlase form part of the technical crew). We have been fortunate enough to invite parents and families of the cast to see the performances, as well as the whole school including staff and governors.

Pupils from Beechview have also been able to visit Borlase's theatre on a number of other occasions, to watch dance performances by Key Stage 3 pupils. Additionally, there has previously been a whole-school visit to a local secondary school, Highcrest, for their performance of Bugsy Malone.

Singing events in school are free for pupils and their families. Trips to Borlase for performances incur a coach cost, though for our Musical Theatre cast we use one of the Borlase minibuses where possible to minimise additional transportation costs. Young Voices and the O2 Arena set their own prices for aspects of the event (the children's T-shirts and their families' audience tickets), and there is an additional cost

for the children's coach ticket (and any family coach tickets for those who join us on the coach - an option we offer to help reduce families' costs). Families in receipt of Pupil Premium funding have the option of receiving support with aspects of the trips relevant to pupil costs, and all families are provided with financial support in the form of deposits and/or paying in instalments. At Beechview, we strive to facilitate all pupils' involvement and offer support where possible.

In the Future

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

Our aims for the future of music education at Beechview Academy include:

- A Christmas performance in the town centre - 2024.
- Singing at a local residential care home - Christmas 2024 or Spring/Summer 2025.
- More live musicians (particularly pupils from Borlase) in our Year 3 and 4 Christmas production and Musical Theatre club's performance in the 2024/25 academic year.
- Greater use of a variety of instruments during year group/in-class music lessons, using the instruments already at school - 2024/25 academic year, Summer term.
- Increased sharing of history of music during whole-school assemblies (more detail about musicians, genres etc.) - 2024/25 academic year.
- Peripatetic music lessons offered in school, with specialist teachers from Buckinghamshire Music Trust - 2025/26 academic year.
- Rocksteady - creating bands for pupils across the school, taking place at Beechview - 2025/26 academic year.
- Continued work with BMT and between the Music Lead, Senior Leadership Team and Music Governor to further develop and strengthen music at Beechview, to ensure an increasingly successful and fully-developed and implemented curriculum (supported by a confident teaching staff - with support for colleagues where appropriate).
- If possible, an additional 15 minutes of timetabled curriculum music in the weekly curriculum to make one hour per week (currently, we have 45 minutes' per week, plus some additional sessions throughout the year) - 2024/25 or 2025/26 academic year.
- A live-stream of an orchestral concert (for example, from BMT) or a visit to see an orchestra live (perhaps the music pupils at Borlase) - 2024/25 or 2025/26 academic year.

Further Information

Here is a link to Buckinghamshire Music Trust's website: [Buckinghamshire Music Trust – Music Tuition and Ensembles Throughout Buckinghamshire \(bucksmusic.org\)](https://bucksmusic.org)