

Music development plan summary: Birchfield Primary School

Overview

| Detail | Information |
|--|------------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025/2026 |
| Date this summary was published | September 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | September 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Amy Fisher |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | |
| Name of local music hub | Services for Education |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Create Music |

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 school curriculum for teaching music is published on our school website

<https://www.birchfld.bham.sch.uk/>

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music is an integral part of the school day, as well as being delivered specifically through the Expressive Arts and Design element of the EYFS curriculum through Charanga. Our youngest children listen to and sing along with different pieces of music, nursery rhymes and action songs. They begin to improvise and play classroom instruments. Our school music curriculum is informed by the

national curriculum for key stages one and two. Charanga is then used to support the delivery of the required curriculum content. The music curriculum incorporates the key threads of composing and improvising, singing, listening and performing. In KS1 and KS2, pupils learn more about the interrelated dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch and tempo, dynamics, timbre, structure, texture). Charanga provides teachers with week-by-week lesson plan ideas for each year group in the school. It is ideal for specialist and non-specialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, engaging and exciting resources to support every lesson – teachers then adapt planning to suit the needs of all pupils in their class. Pupils in key stage one and key stage two, have an hour per week of music lessons throughout the school year. Our philosophy of music education at Birchfield is based on the principle that it should be fun and engaging for our pupils. We want to provide our pupils with the enduring passion and skills they will need should they wish to pursue music as a hobby or even a career. We have a peripatetic music teacher from Create Music who comes into school to deliver ukulele lessons to pupils in Year 1 – Year 6. At Birchfield, we believe that all pupils should have the opportunity to learn to play at least one instrument before they leave primary school. In 2024-2025, pupils in one year group (year 4) learnt to play the ukulele and performed in an end of year performance to parents to showcase their learning. In 2025-2026, we will be introducing ukulele sessions to all other year groups so that they can learn to play this instrument proficiently. Pupils will also have the opportunity to play the recorder during their Charanga lessons. They will continue to explore using other types of instruments such as glockenspiels and percussion instruments to compose.

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.

Each week, there will be an opportunity for pupils to sing in class so that they can develop their love of singing and their confidence in singing in front of others. In addition, this year, we will continue with our school choir. The choir will perform to parents and other pupils at school assemblies or events but this will eventually lead to the choir performing at other events across the Trust. Pupils also have the opportunity to perform in a range of different contexts during their time at school (see musical

experiences). Pupils will also have the opportunity to showcase their learning of the ukulele during school concerts held for parents and children.

We want our pupils to know about different genres of music and famous people associated with music so each assembly will start with an introduction to a different style of music and information about this style/song/composer.

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 2024 - 2025, performances were delivered termly during exhibitions where pupils had the opportunity to show their music learning to their parents. Some year groups chose to listen, learn and perform a song. Other year groups played and performed an instrument to their parent. These performances will continue this year. Pupils will hold a Christmas concert to parents and children across the school.

Year 6 will take part in an end-of-year performance which the rest of the school watch, alongside parents and members of the community. Both performances include singing. This year, we will increase the range of musical experiences for our pupils by ensuring we have visitors such as Steel Pan drum musicians and we will also provide visits for some of our pupils to the Symphony Hall so they can experience performances of different types of music.

In the future

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

In the future, we will develop our use of music technology in music lessons through the use of YuStudio. This is a beginner friendly online music studio that provides pupils with opportunities to compose their own music. As this is browser based, pupils will have the opportunity to make music at home and at school. They will be able to play, record, arrange and music mix. We are also planning to audit and then increase the range of musical instruments that our pupils are exposed to within the classroom and also through the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular clubs. We will fully research the organisations that we can invite into school to support with this. Our pupils can then

have a wider choice of instruments to choose from and develop their proficiency.
Finally, we aim for musicians and choir to grow and improve and be able to perform in different events across the region, such as Young Voices

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.