



BIRLEY PRIMARY ACADEMY

Music Development Plan

Music Development Plan Summary: *Birley Primary Academy*

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Susan Ellis
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emily Forsyth
Name of local music hub	Sheffield Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Joseph Phipps Pearson (Dronfield Guitar Tuition) Halle Orchestra

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.

More detailed description of our curriculum offer for music can be found on the school website by following this link: <https://www.birleyprimaryacademy.co.uk/music/>

A summary of learning across school is given below.

- At Birley, we know how important it is that our pupils have regular access to high quality music education throughout their time with us. We aim to enable that all pupils to learn to sing, play at least one instrument and enjoy creating music together. Our curriculum and after school offer is planned to ensure that pupils have the opportunity to progress their musical interests and talents as far

as their interests lie in a relaxed, enjoyable environment. Our schemes have been chosen and created carefully to meet the assumption that “A central purpose of good music education is for pupils to make more music, think more musically and consequently become more musical.” Research Review Series (Ofsted July 2021)

For this reason:

- **pupils in nursery** explore music and the sound environment daily. Musical instruments are available to interact with in the band stand in our outdoor provision and children regularly embark on listening walks. As part of the Little Wandle phonics programme “Rhyme Time,” children begin to learn to pitch match through singing a wide repertoire of songs. They also develop their ability to listen with attention and discriminate between sounds during these sessions. Our youngest children begin to move to music during their “Write Dance” Sessions 2 or 3 times a week and enjoy moving freely to sound in the sensory room.
- **pupils in reception** take part in weekly whole class music lessons of around ½ an hour. These sessions are adapted to meet the needs of the cohort following the Active Music scheme. In addition, they have the opportunity to respond creatively to music during their “Exploring the World” topic using a unit of work taken from the Music Express scheme.
- **pupils in year 1 to year 6** participate in an hour of music learning with their class each week. This learning is delivered by their class teacher (unless stated otherwise) and includes the following:
 - Weekly listening appreciation sessions of 10-20 minutes based upon, but not limited to, music suggested by the Model Music Curriculum. These sessions are designed to ensure that our pupils have the opportunity to explore great music from the key periods of musical history, encompassing music taken from a diverse variety of styles, cultures, composers and musicians. These sessions, progressively introduce language used to describe music so that children can widen and express their musical own preferences. They provide many opportunities for our pupils to develop their understanding of British values and global citizenship, thus developing their cultural capital. The sessions are organised into the following half termly units: Early music and the Baroque Period, The Classical Period, The Romantic Period, 20th century music, 21st century Music and Musical Traditions (which encompasses music from around the world). These units are repeated annually to capitalise on the potential of spaced learning to deepen understanding and retention over time. Each unit begins with an introduction to the period to be explored in order to support the pupils in developing their understanding of the chronology of music.
 - Four six week units of active music making (each session being 40 minutes long) based broadly upon the Kodaly philosophies of enjoyment, inclusion and

sound before symbol. Here, pupils engage in games and inclusive activities to build their understanding and skills of manipulating the key elements of music: melody, articulation, dynamics, texture, structure, harmony, instruments, pulse, rhythm and timbre. We offer lots of practise with engaging with these elements unconsciously, before beginning to link them with signs, symbols and ultimately notation.

- a number of units of work throughout the year focussed on applying their developing musicality by responding creatively to a range of stimuli and developing skills of improvisation and composition. The Music Express Scheme is used to deliver these units.
- In Y4 all pupils are taught musicianship by the music coordinator following our progression of skills document and the schemes mentioned above, but also preparing the pupils for the brass lessons to be undertaken in year 5. They develop ensemble skills such as following cues and gestures from a leader, playing different parts in a piece of music and following notation. In addition, pupils begin to work with a mounthpiece which leads on to playing simple pieces on a pBuzz (a plastic instrument which works in a similar way to a trombone). This allows them to begin to develop the embouchure and stamina required for playing a brass instrument. By doing this, we hope to enable them to reap the maximum benefit from the expertise of the specialist brass teacher, who will introduce them to playing the cornet in year 5.
- In year 5, all pupils begin to learn to play a brass instrument (currently the cornet). They have a weekly 45 minute lesson provided by a specialist brass teacher from Sheffield Music Hub. This is subsidised by school and is free to parents. Pupils then have the opportunity to continue to engage with cornet lessons in a smaller group of around 10 as they progress through year 6, in addition to their weekly music lesson with their class. There is currently no charge for these lessons.
- We work closely with our music hub teacher to ensure that skills developed by our younger pupils in previous years are applied and built upon, during their instrumental lessons in years 5 and 6.

Taken together, these elements allow us aim to deliver a music offer which is comparable in breadth and ambition to the model music curriculum.

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 offer Rocksteady lessons for children in years 1-6. These sessions are paid for by parents. Ten children each year who are in receipt of pupil premium funding, access these lessons for no charge (part funded by school Pupil Premium funding and part by Rocksteady). During these sessions, children learn to play in a band and have the opportunity to work towards an Ofqual regulated qualification from Rocksteady and Trinity College London.
- Guitar lessons are offered to all children in key stage 2. Parents pay for these lessons which are delivered by a private teacher to groups of 3 or 4 children. The cost is currently £5 per lesson.
- We offer a key stage 2 choir. The choir meets weekly throughout the year and gives opportunities to for children to perform at a number of events including a free concert for parents and carers to attend. There is a small charge to parents for this which is currently £2 per week.
- We offer a jump band club during lunchtime once a week for upper key stage two children. This is a free activity which aims to develop an understanding of rhythm and pulse through learning, creating and performing sequences and routines to music. Members then share the fun with younger children on the playground at break times.

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.

- Pupils in years 1,2,3 and 4 participate in weekly singing assemblies aimed at enjoying using our voices together, experiencing the power of communal singing and developing and applying the skills introduced during music lessons.
- All pupils in year 5 take part in an end of year brass performance to parents and pupils. Where possible more experienced players are invited to join in and inspire the children. Last year for example, Y5 were joined by Brass band England and Oughtibridge Silver Band for our Proms at the Primary event,

- All Rocksteady pupils perform every term for other pupils and parents.
- The choir aims to perform at least twice a year, including the Young Voices event at the Utilita Arena and at our school talent show “Birley’s Got Talent”. Parents pay for tickets to watch their children at the Young Voices event however there is no cost for children performing to attend..
- We work with other schools within the LEAD Academy Trust to give pupils the opportunity to perform. We are hoping that this year this will take the form of a joint concert or musical production.
- During their time in key stage 2, pupils visit the Sheffield City Hall at least once, to watch and interact with a professional orchestra during the Halle Orchestra Music For Youth Concert. Parents are asked to pay for this. The cost last year was £8.24 per child.
- Our year 6 Christmas choir form to sing at the local care home each year.
- All pupils in years 1-5 perform in a Christmas concert or production for parents and carers.
- All pupils in year 6 take part in a musical performance at the end of the year.
- We have a music ambassador in upper Key Stage 2 who works closely with the music coordinator to develop musical activities in school and raise the profile of music.

In the future

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

- We will continue to provide one hour of music every week in years 1-6 and review the music curriculum in Nursery and FS2 to ensure that it is ambitious enough to build the musical foundations to ensure that children are ready for the Y1 curriculum.
- We will continue to review the primary curriculum to ensure that it is meeting the breadth and ambition of the Model Music Curriculum.
- We will continue to seek to remove barriers to musical progression by investigating ways to increase access to musical instrument tuition, especially for our disadvantaged and vulnerable children and those with special educational needs, including by fundraising.
- We will continue to seek performance opportunities for our choir and other groups of children.
- We will aim to source funds to enable us to buy in singing packages provided by Sheffield Music Hub for our key stage one children
- We will invite musicians from the local community to share their enthusiasm for music during our World Music Day Event

- We will continue seek ways of enabling our brass players to practise in school for example by forming an after school or lunchtime ensemble.
- We will continue to work closely with our Sheffield Music Hub teacher to ensure that pupils are appropriately prepared to engage with their brass lessons in year 5 and that skills developed in lower Key Stage 2 are built upon throughout the year.
- We will seek ways to use technology for composition and recording purposes including working with Birley Academy.
- We will investigate further opportunities for all of our pupils to experience high quality live music.
- We will continue to strengthen links with Birley Academy to ensure smooth transition and to ensure that our pupils are prepared for music at Key Stage 3.
- We will continue to develop the role of Music Ambassador within school in order to raise the profile of the subject at Birley
- Continue to investigate the possibility of a designated and subject specific teaching space for whole class music.

Further information (optional)

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument which is not currently offered in school or is interested in taking part in musical activities outside of school, please follow the links below which have some useful information.

<https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/>

<https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/pages/music-lessons-in-schools>

Please follow the link below to find out about financial support and bursaries available to families who are in receipt of universal credit or income support and for looked after children.

<https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/pages/bursaries-for-music-service-lessons>

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.