

Music Development Plan Summary: Birches First School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra- curricular music 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.

At Birches First School music is an integral part of the curriculum. Children are provided with:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 and 2.
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	January 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Emma Buckley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Services Staffordshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

An overview of our school music curriculum for each year group is published on our school website under 'Curriculum' 'Music'. Also available on this page is our 'Curriculum Pathways' document which outlines the curriculum pathways for music from Nursery to Year 4.

Our music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021).

In EYFS, music is embedded within so much of our curriculum and daily routines. Children begin the day by singing a welcome song and days of the week song. In Nursery, we use the Little Wandle Scheme in which we teach 'Rhyme time' throughout our Phase 1 Phonics offer. Children are taught a range of nursery rhymes and songs during these sessions. In addition to this, we have embedded musical opportunities into our long term plans for Nursery children so that they have a range of planned music sessions each half term, linked to our 'themes' and with a clear musical focus. Beyond this, music is an integral part of EYFS teaching, used to support routines and teaching across all areas (e.g. songs to support maths teaching and circle games to help children to engage in stories and develop Communication and Language skills). Children have the opportunity to explore a range of musical instruments during Continuous Provision.

In Reception, children continue to have a music rich classroom. Singing is embedded within our Reception classroom, as it is in Nursery. In addition to this, children have weekly, 20- 30 minute discrete music sessions using the Kapow scheme of learning to support progression of skills and knowledge.

In KS1 and 2, children have a weekly music lesson for 1 hour per week. This follows the Kapow scheme of learning to ensure that children have a progressive curriculum which allows them to experience music from a range historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres. The inter-related dimensions of music are taught progressively to ensure that children learn the language of music as well as the skills and knowledge to create, perform and evaluate. In Key Stage 1, children use a range of untuned percussion instruments during music lessons.

In Year 3 and Year 4, music teaching follows the Kapow scheme of learning for whole class musical instrument teaching using glockenspiels. Children are taught to play glockenspiels so that they are able to play as an ensemble, understanding notation. As part of this, children are given many opportunities to perform in front of peers, in small groups and as a class.

Throughout all year groups, children are given the opportunity to sing, listen, perform and compose (improvise and compose).

Children from Reception to Year 4 take part in a whole school singing assembly each week for 20 minutes, led by the Music Lead (Mrs Buckley). During these assemblies, children are taught to songs from a range of musical genres. They are also taught principles for vocal potential:

- ~ Warm ups.
- ~ Breathing.
- ~ Posture.
- ~ Dynamics.
- ~ Phrasing.
- ~ Context.
- ~ Vocal health.

Special Educational Needs and Disability:

Music has a rare and unique ability to bring people together; music making can make a whole class, school and community feel connected to others and part of something bigger. At Birches, we celebrate the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Timetabling ensures that children with SEND who have interventions to support their academic development also have the opportunity to take part in music lessons by timetabling lessons and interventions at different times throughout the week.

Some planning for pupils with SEND occur in careful decisions about curriculum delivery, and teachers support children by:

- ~ breaking down tasks
- ~ reducing the burden on working memory
- ~ the use of appropriate supportive routines
- ~ combining learning modes to enhance clarity/accessibility
- ~ adapting materials to ensure a good but achievable level of challenge.

Part B: Extra- curricular music

This section outlines opportunities at Birches 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 Birches we offer children the opportunity to enjoy musical opportunities and experiences outside of lesson time. As well as our weekly whole school singing assembly, children are offered:

- ~ Children from Reception to Year 4 are offered the opportunity to join the school choir. This takes place weekly, after school for 1 hour a week with the Music lead (Mrs Buckley).
- ~ Children from Year 1 to Year 4 are offered the opportunity to join the 'Rocksteady' program which offers children musical instrument or vocal tuition in a small 'band' of no more than 6 children with a highly qualified and experienced teacher. As part of

Rocksteady, children can achieve an Ofqual-regulated Music qualification, accredited by Trinity College London. Rocksteady sessions are funded by parents.

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.

Children who join our school choir are able to perform at a range of events; local Christmas lights switch on events, Birches Christmas Fair, Birches Summer Fair, performances to the school (regularly during singing assembly).

As part of this, children will perform a 'Rocksteady Concert' to the school and to parents on a termly basis.

All children take part in performances to the school and parents at least once a term. All children perform either a Christmas play (EYFS/ KS1) or a Carol Concert (KS2). Children perform at other events such as our annual 'Easter Bonnet Parade', end of year assemblies and concerts, Leavers Assembly, events such as memorial days.

Children are given the opportunity to watch a live musical performance at least once a year. This may be via our Rocksteady service who perform to the school, an ensemble and also our annual pantomime.

In the future

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

For the academic year 2025-2026, we are planning to take part in Young Voices with our Key stage 2 children (Year 4). This will provide a wonderful opportunity for children to perform music in an arena as part of a huge choir. They will also have the opportunity as part of this to experience professional musicians and dancers performing on stage.

We would like to increase the opportunities that children have to experience live music by inviting musicians into school more frequently and also by taking children out to experience live music events such as at the theatre.