



Barley Close Community Primary School

School Music Development Summary

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.

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023-2024
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school Music lead	Samantha Mitchell
Name of local Music hub	South Glos Music Hub (Integra)
Name of other Music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Endeavour Network

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.

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.

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 the future...

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

A brief overview...

At Barley Close Primary School, we value Music as creative, collaborative, celebratory and challenging.

We believe in the power of Music to bring us together through singing; ensemble playing; exploring new pieces, composers and genres from around the world; and experimenting with the creative process.

We want to give children the opportunity to experience the joy of Music. We believe Music can feed the soul of our school; connect us with our wider community; enrich the lives of individual students and strengthen the shared bonds of trust which join us together as a fantastic school.

Throughout their time at Barley Close, our students will learn to love Music through singing, listening, composing and performing. We believe Musical concepts should be experienced first before being explained clearly, then reinforced with focussed and committed practice. Music will be enjoyed and embodied first, then explained and put into context through the appropriate use of terminology and notation.

We are committed to developing a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of Music, and an unbiased respect for the role that Music may wish to be expressed in any person's life.

We aim to provide children with the opportunity to progress to the next level of their creative excellence.

Music enables children to develop an understanding of culture and history, both in relation to children individually, as well as ethnicities from around the world. This in turn supports their Personal and Cultural Development, while also promoting British Values.

Children are able to enjoy Music in as many ways as they choose – either as listener, creator or performer. Children have the opportunity to discuss and share their own thoughts, opinions and ideas, acknowledging and respecting that these may vary and that this is positive. They can dissect Music and comprehend its parts; they can sing and feel a pulse, for example.

At Barley Close Primary School children are provided with opportunities beyond the National Curriculum to further support their Musical understanding. These include performing in and visiting concerts and school productions. External interests and talents are also encouraged and showcased in class and assembly, ensuring that everyone is challenged regardless of previous Musical experience. Children have an understanding of how to further develop skills less known to them, should they develop an interest in their lives.

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 a Nationally recognised Music education scheme – Kapow – which supports our teachers in planning, delivering and assessing Music in their whole class lessons. Using this adaptive program, we are able to tailor the curriculum to the needs of our pupils as each class is unique and may have varying preferences and interests in certain instruments.

We have carefully constructed a whole school progression map using the National Curriculum and Development Matters documents, to ensure that all children are being taught explicit skills and knowledge which builds upon the previous year as children progress through the school. For instance, children in Reception are taught “to copy rhythmic / melodic patterns”, they then learn in KS1 how to “improvise composing using 1-2 notes”, before “improvising using the pentatonic scale (a five-note pattern)” in KS2.

We teach whole class Music on a fortnightly basis, in order to accommodate other wider curriculum subjects within our busy timetables. We also deliver whole class Listening and Appraisal sessions every week where children are exposed to a range of genres from a variety of cultural backgrounds, and are encouraged to listen carefully and express their opinion using relevant and specific Musical vocabulary. Children are also offered a history of Music types through discussion in these sessions.

Music in the Early Years

Here at Barley Close we recognise that Music interweaves through all areas of learning; “Musicality is an intrinsic part of being human” and therefore in our Early Years classrooms we ensure there are plentiful opportunities for children to explore and play Music through continuous provision and adult led activities. This includes a performance stage area with a variety of instruments and recording devices, as well as creative areas equipped and resourced to allow children to experiment with making their own instruments. Children are encouraged to compose their own Musical melodies, sing songs, listen to Music, dance and play instruments which allows them to express their creativity and emotions. Children are also encouraged to practice songs they’re learning as a class within their theme or topic, for example sea shanties or nursery rhymes.

Music and SEN

Teaching staff support our SEN children by working closely with our SENCO and the child’s family to understand the specific needs of the child. We understand that for many children with SEN, Music is a lifeline and a route of success for those who may not be comfortable in the worlds of Sport or Academics. Therefore we prioritise an enriching and engaging curriculum which fully supports each child’s needs. We provide adaptive lesson structures (including but not exclusive to sensory and movement breaks, and delivering sessions in smaller groups) as well as adapting instruments where necessary. For example, children with visual impairment are provided with larger prints and Glockenspiels have large print labels attached so children can clearly see the notes engraved on each bar.

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.

Children have a range of workshops, group tuition, one-to-one tuition, and experiences available to them outside of lesson time in their time at Barley Close, some of which are provided by school and others are paid for by parents. Year 3, for example, receive whole class Ukulele tuition every week which builds to a whole school performance at the end of term.

Our Deputy Head leads a weekly singing assembly and supports a singing ensemble who perform at our Christmas and Summer fayres with local bands. We also collaborate with external companies such as Rockademy who provide guitar and drum lessons for children on a small group tuition basis, and other Musical professionals provide one-to-one tuition in keyboard and bass/electric guitar.

Children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) collaborate to learn Christmas songs for their annual Christmas performance to parents and the rest of the school. Key Stage 2 children also have the opportunity to sing and perform in their class assemblies, with Year 6 having the additional opportunity to perform in their Leavers assembly to parents and the rest of the school at the end of the year.

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.

Every week, our Deputy Head leads a whole school singing assembly where we sing songs from 'Sing Up', as well as Christmas songs and popular songs in preparation for our annual Christmas and Summer fayres. Children are also encouraged to practise these songs in their classrooms with their class teachers, whenever possible. We are very fortunate to have excellent relationships with local bands and performers who invite our children to sing with them when performing at our Summer fayre!

In addition to our class assemblies, Summer performances, Christmas productions, and tuition performances children at Barley Close are very fortunate to experience workshops throughout the year, for instance Samba drumming. We collaborate with our local Music Hub and other local primary and secondary schools to experience Music as both performers and audience members. This sometimes includes trips to professional concerts such as Music For Youth festival held in Birmingham – a very exciting and anticipated event! We also take trips to local primary schools to watch their productions, such as Mangotsfield Secondary school and their Summer show. This not only supports the appreciation of Music and celebrates talent, but also supports the transition for children who may be attending Mangotsfield Secondary school in future.

Barley Close also host a cross-curricular Music & DT day where children spend the day designing instruments, use tools and materials to create their instrument, and then play the instrument as a solo or ensemble. We have also collaborated with local primary schools in our Endeavour hub to learn songs and perform to each other virtually, via videocall.

We are very keen to inspire our children who may wish to take up an instrument or work in the Music industry, and we invite performers and members of their team (producers, DJs etc) to come into school to perform in assemblies and also talk to the children about their career. Children are always very enthusiastic about these experiences, asking thoughtful questions when hearing from those who are working in the Music field about the skills and mindset needed to be successful. For instance, Nurry Lee (a globally successful concert pianist) popped in to perform and talk to our children while visiting the UK on her World Tour!

In the future...

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

We are dedicated to raising the profile of Music at Barley Close, celebrating our children's talents and abilities as well as exploring and experiencing external Musical talents and successes. For instance, we are collaborating with Bristol Hippodrome and their school partnership programme to coordinate workshops at the theatre as well as performances and workshops in school. These include Dance and Acting workshops, Avenues into Creative Industries talks for children who may wish to take a career in the performing arts behind the scenes, and Musical in a Day workshops where children have the opportunity to learn and perform in a Musical from the theatre.

We are also collaborating with more local Musicians to deliver workshops to our children, as well as creating a school song, based on our school values, for the children to learn in our Singing assemblies and support the pride we all feel for being part of Barley Close Primary. We have plans to collaborate with more local secondary schools for workshops and performances, including opportunities for KS4 students to lead workshops with our children and perform with them in an assembly. Furthermore we are aiming to take part in the Festival of Youth celebration of Music, either as audience members or performing artists.

Within the school timetable we plan to introduce Musician of the Term, where we celebrate one child from each class who has made progress in our whole class Music lessons. We also will introduce Music celebration certificates for children who are celebrating successes or performances outside of school, completing their Piano grades for example. These children will also be invited to play to our school in celebration assemblies, if they so wish.

Other exciting plans for our Music future include:

- Enrichment day (a whole school event where small groups of mixed ages experience wider curriculum subjects – including Music – in active, collaborative, immersive ways)
- 'International Music Day' celebration
- 'Eurovision' celebration, linking with DT (for Cookery) and Geography
- Summer concert – parents are invited to watch every year group perform one song; our Choir will perform, Musical Theatre club children will perform, children with instrumental skills will perform