

Music development plan summary: Birchwood Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	01.09.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Laura Scotchmer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Laura Scotchmer
Name of local music hub	Warwickshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sing Up

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.

Throughout the curriculum we revisit singing, listening, composing and musicianship. Lessons are taught 'little and often' to allow skills and knowledge to become embedded as children journey through school. Reception children have music lessons for 20 minutes each week and children in Year 1 to Year 6 are taught music for 40 minutes each week.

Learning is sequenced to build substantive knowledge, disciplinary knowledge and vocabulary. Throughout units of work teachers encourage children to make links between past learning and new content. We recognise prior learning and build on it with memorable learning experiences and provide targeted support where necessary. The units address the requirements of the National Curriculum and all elements of the Model Music Curriculum.

Music at Birchwood is taught with the support of the 'Sing Up' curriculum. We have chosen this curriculum as it provides our teachers with engaging units of work linked to a range of composers, musical styles and instruments. There is also clear professional development for each unit so that teachers are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively deliver lessons. The units have been carefully chosen to make the curriculum bespoke for Birchwood children. The unit choices ensure that key knowledge is revisited and a broad range of musical styles are studied. We have also chosen for the children to learn percussion instruments for a whole term, every year from Year 2 upwards. This will allow them to revisit prior learning, make links with new learning and have significant time to develop skills on tuned percussion instruments. We believe that the 'Sing Up' curriculum, with units specifically chosen for our school, allows us to deliver an engaging and memorable curriculum. We employ a specialist music teacher, who works for Warwickshire Music Service. This member of staff delivers much of the Key Stage 2 curriculum, particularly whole class percussion lessons. They also offer professional development to other members of staff.

Each unit of music develops knowledge and skills in singing, listening and responding, performing and evaluating and composing and improvising. These elements are woven into the curriculum and key knowledge and skills are revisited year on year to build upon prior learning. Children learn basic notation in different forms and they learn a variety of ways to record their compositions. Composing, improvising and learning to perform on a variety of instruments are embedded within learning.

Disabled pupils and pupils with special educational needs (SEND) are supported through adaptive teaching strategies. This approach is used throughout our curriculum to ensure that all pupils can access their learning.

To read in more detail about the music curriculum at Birchwood Primary School, please visit our music curriculum page:

<https://www.birchwoodprimaryschool.com/web/music/596538>

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 Birchwood Primary School we currently offer individual and group peripatetic music lessons for guitar and keyboard. Specialist teachers from Warwickshire Music Service visit the school and deliver lessons in our dedicated music practice room. Children will often work towards graded exams as they progress with their learning. Instruments are available to loan to support with practice at home. Lessons are subsidised for all pupils with additional subsidies for children with pupil premium eligibility.

Opportunities to participate in workshops and ensembles through Warwickshire Music Service are advertised to pupils and parents on our school newsletter 'The Birchwood Bugle'.

At Birchwood all children have the opportunity to participate in a range of after-school clubs. Children from all year groups can attend 'Playtastic': this allows children to join an ensemble and practice and play together to perform a range of pieces.

Pupils KS2 are able to join our School Choir and have the opportunity to perform in school assemblies, community events such as performing at Polesworth Abbey and regional events such as 'Young Voices'.

Throughout the year, children in KS2 can attend Musical Theatre Club. In the summer term, the group perform a musical for the whole school and for their parents and carers.

The summer term also sees our 'Musical Showcase' where children who have received additional music lessons and our musical clubs perform to parents. Children who receive instrument tuition outside of school or who express a keen interest in the subject within lessons are also welcomed to perform.

The school has a dedicated music practice room for rehearsals and the school's halls are used for rehearsals for larger ensembles.

Each Friday, children spend 30 minutes accessing Birchwood Additional School Experiences (BASE). During this time a range of opportunities to learn new skills are offered to pupils. Children can choose from a wide range of activities but there are often musical choices such as: recorders, boom whackers, singing, keyboard and broadcasting on our school radio station 'Birchwood Beats'.

Each year group takes part in their own class assembly once a year. This provides opportunity to perform for the whole school as well as parents and carers. Year groups often include elements from their music curriculum.

Year 6 children perform in their Leavers Show. This is a musical production and provides opportunity for solo and ensemble performances. Recent performances have included School of Rock, Matilda and High School Musical.

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.

Each week children in Reception and KS1 sing together in their Birthday Candles Assembly and Key Stage 2 take part in a weekly singing assembly.

All children watch a musical pantomime each year. This is free of charge for pupils and is performed by professionals who visit the school.

Staff from Warwickshire Music Service visit the school to provide a musical concert including singing and instrument performance. There will also be visits from ensembles such as string quartets or brass bands, again provided by Warwickshire Music Service and at no cost to pupils.

Children have many opportunities to perform themselves in class assemblies, choir performances, musical theatre club performances and the Musical Showcase.

In the future

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

At Birchwood Primary, we are dedicated to continuing to improve and enhance our curriculum so that children have rich opportunities and memorable experiences. In subsequent years, we plan to make further improvements in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences to support children in developing life-long skills and knowledge in music.

- Develop the use of 'Knowledge Organisers' for use as a reference point for recall and retention of learning.
- Achieve the 'Platinum Arts Mark' by developing a trust wide network to support professional development in music.
- Introduce a trust art competition and network day for music leads.
- Increase the number of extra-curricular music clubs available to KS1 pupils
- Offer an increased range of instruments for peripatetic lessons.
- Ensure children are exposed to a greater range of live music, including classical music.

Further information

To supplement our offer in school, The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how children can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.