



## Music Development Plan Summary: Barnfields 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	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Katie Quimby
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Gayle Darlington
Name of local music hub	Entrust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A



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.



At Barnfields Primary School, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 receive at least one hour per week of high-quality, timetabled music education. Music is taught through active, participatory lessons that foster creativity, enjoyment, and a deepening understanding of music as both an art form and a discipline.

Our curriculum is built around the **Model Music Curriculum's four key strands**:

1. Singing
2. Listening
3. Composing and Improvising
4. Performing and Instrumental Performance

These areas are revisited throughout each year to ensure progression, with increasing musical complexity as pupils move through the school.

We use the **Charanga Original Scheme of Work**, a carefully sequenced programme that supports the National Curriculum and aligns closely with the Model Music Curriculum. Each unit builds cumulatively on previous learning, promoting long-term retention and mastery of both practical and theoretical musical skills. Children develop fluency in a wide range of musical elements, including:

- Pulse and Rhythm
- Pitch
- Tempo and Dynamics
- Timbre and Texture
- Structure and Form
- Musical Notation

A strong emphasis is placed on developing musical vocabulary, empowering children to describe, reflect on, and appraise music confidently and accurately.

Children explore music from a wide variety of genres, cultures, and historical periods, including classical, jazz, folk, popular, and traditional world music. This ensures a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes cultural understanding and inclusion.

Lessons are practical, exploratory, and inclusive, enabling children of all abilities and backgrounds to experience success. Opportunities for both individual creativity and group collaboration are embedded in every unit. Pupils also develop foundational skills in staff notation and aural memory, which are progressively built upon through key stages.

To support progress, teachers use ongoing formative assessment, observing practical skills, participation, and musical understanding. At the end of each half term, pupils participate in informal in-class performances, showcasing their learning to peers and reflecting on their musical development.

This curriculum model enables Barnfields pupils to develop as confident, expressive and knowledgeable young musicians, equipped with the skills and enthusiasm to continue their musical journey both within and beyond school.



## 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 Barnfields Primary School, we provide a rich range of co-curricular music opportunities that complement and extend the skills developed during lesson time. These activities enable pupils to deepen their engagement with music through singing, ensemble playing, and individual instrumental tuition, fostering personal progression and musical confidence.

Our co-curricular offer includes weekly one-to-one instrumental lessons in violin, flute, guitar, and clarinet, delivered by experienced visiting teachers. This personalised instruction allows pupils to develop technical skills, musical expression, and performance confidence, supporting progression from classroom learning into more specialised study.

To promote equity and inclusion, tuition fees are subsidised for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent access to musical learning. Additionally, Year 4 pupils participate in a large-group violin tuition programme, reflecting the National Plan for Music Education's emphasis on Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET). This approach encourages collaborative learning and ensemble skills from an early stage. Pupils in this group are provided with free instrument loans to facilitate regular practice at home.

In addition to instrumental lessons, pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 are invited to join the school's mixed-age choir, which rehearses weekly after school. The choir focuses on developing ensemble singing skills, musicality, and performance techniques. Participation supports the Model Music Curriculum's emphasis on singing as a foundational musical activity and provides opportunities to engage in a variety of musical styles and genres.

We are committed to providing clear progression pathways for our musicians, supporting pupils who wish to pursue graded music exams or take part in advanced ensembles outside of school. We regularly liaise with our local music hub, Entrust, to signpost further opportunities and specialist groups, enriching pupils' musical journeys.

Our co-curricular provision not only enhances individual musicianship but also fosters a vibrant musical community within the school, where pupils collaborate, perform, and inspire one another.



## 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.

At Barnfields Primary School, we recognise that musical experiences beyond the classroom play a vital role in inspiring pupils, broadening their understanding, and embedding their love of music. We offer a wide range of opportunities that allow children to perform, listen, and engage with music in varied and meaningful contexts.

Our pupils regularly take part in school assemblies and concerts, including festive events such as the Reception and Year 1 Nativity play, featuring a variety of songs that enrich our community spirit. Year 6 pupils participate in an end-of-year production, showcasing their musical and dramatic talents to family and friends.

The school choir enjoys performing in prestigious events such as Young Voices, the world's largest children's choir concert, held at Resorts World Arena. This provides an extraordinary opportunity to perform alongside internationally acclaimed artists and conductors, boosting confidence and musical aspiration.

We actively collaborate with other local schools through events like the Pyramid Concert, organised with Walton High School and four other primary schools. This partnership encourages ensemble work and sharing of musical experiences across the community.

Our Year 4 pupils also perform in a violin concert for parents, demonstrating the skills gained through their instrumental tuition and building their performance confidence.

To enrich pupils' listening experiences and cultural understanding, we plan to introduce visits to professional concerts, workshops with guest musicians, and explore a wider range of musical traditions and genres. This will further support the Model Music Curriculum's emphasis on listening and appraising music from diverse contexts.

Looking ahead, we are committed to enhancing our musical calendar by hosting termly school-wide performances and regular singing assemblies. These initiatives will provide more frequent, varied opportunities for pupils to experience the joy of making music together and to develop their performance skills in supportive, celebratory environments.



## In the future

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

Barnfields Primary School is committed to continually enhancing and expanding its music provision to inspire all pupils and nurture lifelong musical engagement.

Our future plans include inviting guest musicians and professional performers each term to enrich pupils' musical experiences and deepen their appreciation of music as a vibrant, evolving art form. These visits will expose children to a wide range of musical styles, cultures, and performance practices.

To support sustainable growth and ensure high-quality music teaching, we plan to invest in ongoing professional development for staff, enabling them to stay current with best practice and curriculum developments. We also intend to strengthen our partnership with the Entrust Music Hub and explore collaborations with other local music organisations to broaden opportunities for pupils.

Finally, we aspire to develop student leadership in music, encouraging pupils to take active roles as music ambassadors, peer tutors, and leaders of musical activities, fostering a vibrant, inclusive musical culture across the school community.

Through these initiatives, Barnfields Primary School will continue to cultivate a rich, dynamic musical environment that empowers every child to discover, enjoy, and thrive through music.