

# Lever Edge Primary Academy: Music development plan summary

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jen Clarkson
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service

*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.**

Music at Lever Edge is a really important part of our ethos. Primarily, we teach music so that our pupils can become more musical but there are additional benefits too. It creates social cohesion, it speaks to all when words can fail, and no matter what language you speak, music is understood. Music stimulates the brain which in turn helps with reducing stress and aiding memory. It can also improve mood and reduce anxiety through bringing people together. Music is fun.

We believe music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, perform and appraise with discrimination to the best in the musical technique.

Music teaching at Lever Edge Primary Academy aims to follow the specifications of the National Curriculum; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum and ensuring the progressive development of musical concepts, knowledge and skills. Lessons enable children to develop their skills, appreciate a wide variety of music and begin to appraise a range of musical genres

The aims of our Music curriculum are to develop/ provide opportunities for pupils to:

- enjoy and have an appreciation for music
- listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, cultures, styles and traditions

- sing and use their voices to create different effects
  - explore and learn to play a range of musical instruments e.g. djembes, keyboard, clarinets, glocks etc.
  - progressively develop their musicianship skills through singing and playing
  - create and compose music, both on their own and with others.
  - use a range of musical language for example read and write musical notation with growing confidence
  - form opinions on and express personal preferences about the quality and style of music
  - take part in performances with an awareness of audience
- Our music curriculum is carefully sequenced and planned by specialist teaching staff from Bolton Music Service alongside the music lead and class teachers informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021)
  - Each class in KS1 is allocated a 30 minute time slot for specific music tuition and in KS2 this increases to 50 minutes. During this lesson time, pupils have the opportunity to sing and play a tuned or un-tuned instrument through whole-class ensemble teaching. Music/ Singing is also promoted at other times in the week
  - Our music curriculum is skills based and progressive from EYFS through to Year Six. It is designed so that it allows children to repeat and add to specific skills, allowing each child to progress to be largely in line with age related expectations
  - There is knowledge embedded within the skills progression, such as musical vocabulary or standard musical notation but the knowledge supports the central purpose of learning to perform and create music
  - All children have the opportunity to explore, perform, listen to, review and evaluate music. This is done within Key Stage assemblies as well as in class situations using the non-statutory guidance for teaching music
  - The curriculum is designed to be inclusive and enjoyed by all: it provides an opportunity for people from all social and cultural backgrounds to express themselves. We take into consideration the individual needs of pupils, making reasonable adjustments to enable increased access to music lessons, for example giving consideration to sound and light issues, seating, resources, displays and multi-sensory approaches as and where necessary
  - The music lead ensures that music is taught on a weekly basis in school and there is an extensive timetable of specialist music teaching across the entire school.
  - Children are given the opportunity to perform and enjoy a wide range of music. Children in KS2 are encouraged to make suggestions about the types of music they would like to study and perform, this allows them the freedom to explore their own musical tastes and talents
  - In EYFS there is continuous provision of music and musical instruments. In Key Stage 2 children have access to learning musical instruments covering a wide range of cultures and traditions through challenge pathways for Clarinets & Djembe (Year 4s) and Steel Pans & Samba Drumming (Year 6s).
  - Composing using body percussion, vocal sounds and music technology is also part of the curriculum. This develops the understanding of musical elements both with and without the complexity of musical instruments. Composing begins in Year 2, Autumn 1. Pupils explore the use of 'walk'

and 'jogging', with some also using 'ssh' to build musical sentences alongside their musical heart-beat.

- Our curriculum is centred on a progression of skills which the children build upon as they go through school-as well as revisiting key skills they have learnt in previous years. These skills are being provided by Bolton Music Service. They have been devised/ based on the DFE's Model Music Curriculum. That is why foundational skills such as learning music notation, starts as early as KS1, with our singing programme starting in Nursery 2s.
- We teach music in EYFS as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the Foundation Stage Framework (2014). We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. 'Counting Songs' foster a child's mathematical ability and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.
- We strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.
- We have achieved the Music Mark award for our commitment to providing a high quality music education for all children and young people (2023-24 and 2024-25).
- We have a dedicated music room and a large range of percussion instruments, djembe drums, keyboards and steel pans. We also have a stage, with lighting and sound systems, which we use for performances.

## Part B: Extra-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.**

- Music is embedded in the practices across the school, in the classroom as well as the weekly assemblies, various concerts and performances, the learning of instruments, and the musical ensembles. This allows all children to feel a sense of achievement and to fully enjoy a more creative subject that takes place outside of the classroom learning environment for example cross curricular links such as songs linked to class topics, or listening to music to inspire writing or art
- Children are encouraged to develop their musical skills and progress further through a pathways scheme. They are offered tuition and guided towards further learning opportunities outside of school. Music tuition in school is offered free of charge.
- Challenge pathways for Clarinets & Djembe (Year 4s) and Steel Pans & Samba Drumming (Year 6s) both WOPs and for G&T their preference which could be Keyboards, Dhol Drumming, Gamalan, Djembe, Samba, Tuned Percussion, Ukulele.
- There are wider opportunities class instrumental tuition. Furthering talent and small group/individual tuition pathways also take place for example at Christmas time one of the music teachers

hosted a bell ringing group with specifically chosen Year 4 pupils that had shown musical potential and high levels of musicianship in curriculum lessons

- We have both a KS1 and KS2 choir. There is a weekly slot for Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 choirs. KS2 choir work towards performances such as Bolton Music Festival. This builds stronger links with cluster schools enabling music leads to organise joint rehearsals
- We have year 6 music monitors and two music ambassadors who support with preparation of resources, use of the sound system and helping some of our younger children.

## 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.**

- Our KS2 choir performs at Bolton Music festival and also in assemblies throughout the year to showcase their achievements
- KS1 choir are provided with opportunities to perform to an audience through musical showcases and assemblies
- We hold a Harvest, Christmas and Easter Assembly each year which enables pupils to perform to an audience
- The nurseries host Christmas sing- a- longs and Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 each perform their own Christmas musical nativity
- Each year we hold a Carol Service which enables KS2 pupils to showcase their singing to parents
- Every Year group is involved in a special music assembly where they can showcase what they have learned in music during the academic year
- Year 6 classes invite their parents to watch them play Steel Pans and Samba
- Year 3 pupils have the opportunity to attend 'play with the Halle' and Year 2 usually attend the Mayor's Christmas Concert
- At the beginning of the school year Bolton Music Service perform "Music Live" concerts to year 1-6 (this is free of charge to parents) and we encourage other musicians to perform for the children in school e.g. Rock Steady Music
- During previous academic years, KS2 pupils took part in a special day dedicated to watching, learning and performing Nasheeds

- Our pupils are exposed to music on a daily basis through listening to different genres of music during lunchtimes

## In the future

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

As part of our continuous review process, we look for ways to develop musical opportunities and deepen musical understanding and skills.

- Provide more opportunities for our pupils to watch musical performances, including local secondary pupils performing to them, local bands/ choirs, staff performing etc.
- Give more opportunities to learn and subsequently perform a wider variety of musical genres, within curriculum time e.g. musical theatre, classical, country and western, modern pop music
- Continue to learn the 'bank' of modern school songs which are performed in key stage assemblies, class assemblies and at other times as appropriate
- Form a school band by increasing the bank of musical instruments to include drums, guitars maybe bass and providing music tuition for identified individuals.