



Lever Edge Primary Academy: Music Development Plan Summary

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
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 is a highly valued and integral part of life at Lever Edge Primary Academy. We believe that music has the power to inspire, unite and enrich lives. It is a universal language that transcends cultural and linguistic barriers, enabling children to express themselves, connect with others and develop creativity.

At its heart, we teach music to develop musicianship and foster a lifelong appreciation of music. Alongside this, music supports children's wider development by promoting confidence, wellbeing, social cohesion and emotional expression. Research shows that engagement in music can enhance memory, concentration and communication skills, whilst also reducing stress and improving mood. Above all, music is enjoyable and provides children with opportunities to experience success, creativity and collaboration.

We believe that music embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. As pupils progress through school, they develop a critical understanding of music and learn to perform, compose and appraise with increasing confidence, skill and musicality.

Intent

Music teaching at Lever Edge Primary Academy follows the National Curriculum and provides a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum for all pupils. Through high-quality teaching and specialist expertise, children develop their musical knowledge, understanding and skills progressively from Nursery through to Year 6.

Our music curriculum aims to enable pupils to:

- Enjoy and develop a lifelong appreciation of music.
- Listen to, review and evaluate music from a range of historical periods, genres, cultures, styles and traditions.
- Sing confidently and use their voices expressively.
- Explore and learn to play a range of tuned and untuned instruments, including djembes, keyboards, clarinets, glockenspiels, steel pans and samba instruments.
- Develop musicianship through regular singing and instrumental performance.
- Create and compose music independently and collaboratively.
- Develop fluency in musical vocabulary and increasingly use and understand musical notation.
- Express opinions and preferences about music using appropriate musical language.
- Perform with confidence and awareness of audience and purpose.
- Appreciate the contribution music makes to personal, cultural and community life.

Implementation

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that knowledge, skills and understanding build progressively over time. It is informed by the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum (2021), ensuring clear progression from the Early Years through to Year 6.

Specialist Teaching

Music is delivered by a dedicated specialist music teacher who teaches music across the school from **Nursery 2 to Year 6**, including pupils within **The Haven SEND Unit**, over four days each week. This ensures a high-quality, consistent and progressive music education for all pupils.

Music is taught weekly and provides pupils with opportunities to sing, compose, perform, listen to and appraise a wide range of musical styles and genres. In EYFS, children receive a weekly 30-minute music lesson. This increases to 45 minutes per week in Key Stage 1 and 60 minutes per week in Key Stage 2. In addition, all pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 take part in a weekly 30-minute singing session that promotes vocal development and musical enjoyment. Pupils within The Haven benefit from a daily 15-minute music session tailored to their needs. Music and singing are further enriched through assemblies, performances, concerts and a range of wider enrichment opportunities throughout the school year, fostering a love of music and encouraging active participation across the school.

Progressive Curriculum

The curriculum is skills-based and carefully structured so that children revisit, refine and extend their musical skills as they progress through school. Foundational elements, including pulse, rhythm, pitch and notation, are introduced from an early age and developed systematically.

Whilst knowledge of musical vocabulary, notation and historical context is embedded throughout the curriculum, these elements support the central aim of enabling pupils to create and perform music confidently and competently.

Performing and Composing

Children are encouraged to become confident performers from an early age. Opportunities to share and celebrate music are provided through class performances, assemblies, productions and wider school events.

Composing forms an important part of the curriculum. Beginning in Year 2, pupils explore creating musical phrases using body percussion, vocal sounds and music technology before progressing to more complex composition and improvisation activities. These experiences deepen pupils' understanding of musical elements while developing creativity and independence.

Instrumental Learning

Children are provided with opportunities to learn and perform using a wide range of instruments from different musical traditions and cultures. In Key Stage 2, pupils engage in extended instrumental programmes, including opportunities to learn clarinet, steel pans and percussion through progressive challenge pathways.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Music is embedded within the Early Years curriculum through both adult-led teaching and continuous provision. Children explore singing, rhythm, movement, instruments and musical play as part of their learning within Expressive Arts and Design.

Music contributes significantly to children's communication and language development, personal and social development and understanding of the world. Singing, rhyme and musical activities support early literacy and numeracy skills whilst fostering creativity and confidence.

Inclusion

We are committed to ensuring that every child can fully access and enjoy music. The curriculum is designed to be inclusive and celebrates diversity through exposure to music from a wide range of cultures, traditions and backgrounds.

We strive to remove barriers to participation by making reasonable adjustments where necessary. Consideration is given to sensory needs, classroom organisation, resources and teaching approaches to ensure all pupils, including those with SEND, can participate successfully and achieve their potential.

Through clear modelling, explicit instruction and appropriate scaffolding, pupils are supported to engage actively in lessons, develop their musical abilities and experience success.

Impact

By the time pupils leave Lever Edge Primary Academy, they will have developed the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate successfully in a range of musical experiences. They will be able to perform, compose and appraise music with increasing independence and technical competence, whilst demonstrating a genuine appreciation and enthusiasm for music.

Pupils will leave with a strong foundation in musical understanding, an awareness of diverse musical traditions and the confidence to continue their musical journey beyond primary school.

Enrichment and Resources

Music is further enhanced through a wide range of enrichment opportunities, performances and celebrations throughout the year.

The school has:

- A dedicated music room.
- A wide selection of percussion instruments, keyboards, steel pans and other specialist resources.
- A stage equipped with lighting and sound systems to support performances and productions.
- A specialist music teacher delivering high-quality music provision across the school.

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.

At Lever Edge Primary Academy, music extends far beyond the classroom and plays a significant role in school life. We provide a wide range of opportunities for pupils to sing, perform, compose and develop their musical skills outside of curriculum lessons, enabling them to deepen their understanding, explore their interests and reach their full potential as musicians.

- Music is embedded throughout the wider life of the school. Pupils experience music through assemblies, concerts, productions, performances and enrichment activities, as well as through cross-curricular learning. Music is used to enhance learning across the curriculum, for example through songs linked to class topics or listening activities that inspire writing, art and creative expression.
- Children are encouraged to develop their musical skills beyond the curriculum through a range of progression pathways. Opportunities are provided for pupils to build on their interests and talents, supporting those who wish to pursue music at a more advanced level. Instrumental tuition and enrichment opportunities are offered free of charge, ensuring equitable access for all pupils.

- In Key Stage 2, pupils access a range of instrumental challenge pathways, including clarinet, steel pans and samba drumming. Additional opportunities are provided for pupils who demonstrate particular musical aptitude or interest, with pathways tailored to individual strengths and preferences. These may include keyboards, tuned percussion, ukulele, dhol drumming and world music ensembles.
- Further opportunities for musical development are provided through targeted small-group projects and performance ensembles. These enable pupils with particular musical strengths to extend their skills, gain performance experience and develop leadership and teamwork through collaborative music-making.
- We offer both a Key Stage 1 Choir and a Key Stage 2 Choir, which rehearse weekly. Choir members regularly perform at school events and community celebrations, providing opportunities to develop vocal technique, confidence and performance skills. Participation in local music festivals and collaborative events enables pupils to perform alongside children from other schools and experience a broader musical community.
- Leadership opportunities are available through our Music Ambassadors. These pupils support the organisation of performances, assist with resources and sound equipment, and act as positive role models for younger children, helping to foster a strong musical culture across the school.

Through these extra-curricular opportunities, pupils develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and a lifelong enjoyment of music, whilst being encouraged to pursue their musical interests and talents 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.

At Lever Edge Primary Academy, we believe that musical experiences beyond the classroom are essential in developing confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music. Pupils are provided with a wide range of opportunities to perform, experience live music and engage with diverse musical traditions and cultures throughout their time at school.

- Our Key Stage 2 Choir performs regularly throughout the year, including participation in the Bolton Music Festival, school assemblies at the local care home and other community events. These opportunities enable pupils to celebrate their achievements, develop performance skills and perform for a wider audience.
- Our Key Stage 1 Choir also performs regularly through assemblies and musical showcases, helping younger pupils develop confidence, stage presence and enjoyment of singing.
- Whole-school performances form an important part of our musical culture. Each year, pupils participate in Harvest, Christmas and Easter celebrations, providing opportunities to sing and perform to parents, carers and the wider school community.
- Children in Nursery and Reception take part in festive sing-alongs and performances, while pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 perform Christmas productions, developing their confidence and enjoyment of performing from an early age.

- The annual Christmas Production provides Key Stage 2 pupils with an opportunity to perform collectively and showcase their singing to parents and the wider community.
- Every year group participates in a dedicated Music Showcase Assembly, where pupils share and celebrate the skills, knowledge and performances developed throughout the academic year.
- Year 5 pupils perform their Steel Pan and Samba work for parents and carers, demonstrating the musical skills and musicianship they have developed through their instrumental learning.
- Pupils have opportunities to engage with live music beyond school. For example, Year 3 pupils attend Play with the Hallé, whilst Year 2 pupils traditionally attend the Mayor's Christmas Concert, providing valuable experiences of professional musicians and live performance.
- We actively welcome visiting musicians, ensembles and performance groups into school to broaden pupils' musical experiences and inspire future musical participation. These experiences expose children to a range of musical genres, instruments and career pathways within music.
- Pupils learn about and experience music from a variety of cultures and traditions. In previous years, Key Stage 2 pupils have taken part in workshops focused on Nasheeds and Islamic musical traditions, helping to develop cultural awareness, understanding and appreciation of diverse musical practices.
- Music is woven into everyday school life. Pupils are exposed to a wide range of musical styles, genres and traditions through assemblies, classroom learning and listening opportunities during social times, helping to broaden their musical horizons and develop informed musical preferences.

Through these experiences, pupils develop confidence, cultural understanding, performance skills and a genuine enthusiasm for music that extends well beyond the classroom.

In the future

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

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality music education, we continuously review and refine our provision to broaden opportunities, enrich experiences and further develop pupils' musical knowledge, skills and appreciation of music.

Over the coming years, we aim to:

- **Increase opportunities for pupils to experience live music** by welcoming visiting musicians, local secondary school ensembles, community choirs, bands and staff performers into school. These experiences will expose pupils to a wider range of musical styles and inspire future participation.
- **Broaden the range of musical genres explored and performed** within the curriculum, ensuring that pupils experience and perform music from a diverse range of traditions and styles, including musical theatre, classical, folk, jazz, contemporary popular music and world music.
- **Continue to develop a shared repertoire of school songs** that can be performed confidently across the school in assemblies, performances and celebratory events. This will further strengthen our musical culture and sense of community.
- **Develop additional instrumental learning opportunities** by expanding the school's collection of instruments and introducing new pathways for pupils to learn instruments such as drums, guitar and bass guitar.

- **Establish a school band** that provides opportunities for pupils with a particular interest or aptitude in music to rehearse, collaborate and perform together for school and community audiences.
- **Further develop leadership opportunities within music**, enabling Music Ambassadors and Music Monitors to take greater responsibility for supporting performances, promoting musical events and encouraging participation across the school.
- **Expand performance opportunities** both within school and the wider community, ensuring that all pupils have regular opportunities to share their musical achievements with different audiences.

Through these developments, we aim to ensure that every child leaves Lever Edge Primary Academy with a love of music, confidence as a performer and a rich understanding of music's role within their lives and the wider world.