

Music development plan summary: Belswains Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2027
Name of the school music lead	Rhianna Finn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Hertfordshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	-Charanga -iRock -Performing Herts - Link Learning Education

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 Belswains Primary School, our curriculum music provision is built on a clear, progressive and inclusive approach that reflects the expectations of the Creative Music Scheme from Charanga. Following a full review of this scheme, we have refined our practice to ensure that pupils experience a broad and balanced musical education, with a strong emphasis on listening, appraising, performing and composing. Our curriculum exposes pupils to music from a wide range of historical periods, genres, cultures and traditions, enabling them to develop a deep understanding of musical diversity and a lifelong appreciation of the subject.

All pupils from EYFS to Year 6 receive a minimum of one hour of dedicated music teaching each week, delivered by class teachers using the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. This scheme provides a clear progression of skills, vocabulary and musical

concepts, ensuring consistency across year groups and supporting teachers with high-quality resources and structured lesson sequences. Recent updates to Charanga have been incorporated into our planning to strengthen technical musicianship, digital engagement and opportunities for creative composition.

To further enhance whole-school musical development, both KS1 and KS2 participate in a weekly 20-minute singing assembly, led by the Music Lead. These sessions focus on vocal warm-ups, pitch accuracy, harmony work and confidence building, while also supporting community cohesion through shared repertoire. Monitoring of singing assemblies has been strengthened this year to ensure progression in vocal skills and consistency in delivery.

In addition to curriculum music, pupils have access to private instrumental tuition on Fridays. Lessons are delivered by a Music Specialist from Link Education, offering 15-minute or 30-minute sessions in guitar or piano. Demand for instrumental lessons has increased this year, and timetabling has been adjusted to ensure smooth transitions and equitable access across year groups. This provision supports our commitment to widening participation in instrumental learning and nurturing individual musical interests.

Our curriculum continues to prioritise inclusive practice, ensuring that SEND learners receive appropriate scaffolds, adapted resources and accessible pathways into musical participation. Staff have been supported to use Charanga's differentiated materials and to incorporate additional visual, verbal and practical supports where needed. This ensures that all pupils, regardless of starting point, can engage meaningfully with music and experience success.

Through these developments, our curriculum music offer remains robust, ambitious and reflective of national guidance, ensuring that every pupil at Belswains Primary receives a rich, engaging and high-quality musical education.

Please visit our school music page here for our school documents:
<https://www.belswains.herts.sch.uk/music>

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 Belswains Primary School, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the classroom. Our co-curricular offer is designed to broaden pupils' musical experiences, develop their confidence as performers, and

nurture individual talents. Through a wide range of musical opportunities, pupils are encouraged to explore different aspects of music-making and engage with the wider musical community.

Whole-school singing assemblies for KS1 and KS2 remain a central part of our provision. Led by the Music Lead, these sessions support vocal development, musical understanding and collective enjoyment. Alongside singing, pupils learn key concepts such as pitch, notation, dynamics and performance etiquette. The shared experience of singing together strengthens school community spirit and promotes a positive musical culture across the school.

Our KS2 Choir Club continues to be a vibrant and successful element of our co-curricular programme. Open to pupils in Years 4-6, the choir provides structured opportunities to develop vocal technique, sing in harmony and rehearse as an ensemble. Throughout the year, choir members participate in high-profile events, including Young Voices at Wembley Arena and the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall. This year, the choir has also begun performing within the local community, sharing Belswains' musical enjoyment with others and strengthening community cohesion. These experiences offer pupils meaningful performance opportunities, build confidence and allow them to feel part of a wider musical network.

Instrumental learning is an important part of our extended music offer. Pupils have access to 1:1 or 2:1 private instrumental lessons, enabling many children to learn an instrument during their time at Belswains. This personalised tuition supports musical progression, encourages long-term commitment and helps pupils develop specialist skills beyond the classroom curriculum.

Our partnership with iRock School of Music continues to be a highly engaging and popular feature of our co-curricular programme. Through iRock sessions, pupils can choose to sing or play instruments such as drums, keyboards and electric guitars. Children form bands, rehearse together and work towards an end-of-term performance for families and the school community. These sessions promote creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm, while giving pupils hands-on experience with contemporary instruments and musical styles.

To ensure equity of access, pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding may use this support to participate in any of our co-curricular music activities. This commitment ensures that financial barriers do not limit opportunities for children to develop their musical interests or take part in enriching experiences.

Overall, our co-curricular music provision complements and enhances the core curriculum, offering pupils a well-rounded and inspiring musical education. Through regular practice, performance opportunities and exposure to diverse musical styles and

instruments, pupils deepen their appreciation of music, strengthen their skills and develop a lasting passion for the arts.

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.

Participating in and attending live performances are integral aspects of our music curriculum at Belswains Primary School. These experiences expose pupils to new environments, broaden their musical horizons and allow them to experience live music first-hand. Engaging with live performance enriches pupils' understanding of musical expression, inspires creativity and deepens their appreciation of the art form.

Throughout the year, pupils benefit from a wide range of musical experiences that complement and extend their classroom learning. These opportunities include:

- Attending live shows at Abbots Hill School and Longdean Secondary School, enabling pupils to experience high-quality performances in different educational settings.
- Dress rehearsals for our KS2 Christmas Carol Concert and the KS1/KS2 productions, providing insight into the preparation, discipline and teamwork involved in staging a live performance.
- iRock concerts, where pupils perform as part of their band, showcasing contemporary musical skills and ensemble collaboration.
- World Music Day annual performances, celebrating global musical traditions and offering pupils a platform to share their learning with the wider school community.
- Musician visits, supported by Hertfordshire Music Service and Link Education, giving pupils the opportunity to meet professional musicians, explore instruments and learn about musical careers.
- Artist performances at Young Voices and the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall, allowing pupils to witness large-scale live music and experience the excitement of performing alongside professional artists.
- Live recordings of musical performances, shared during KS1 and KS2 Singing Assemblies as part of our 'Musician of the Week' feature, helping pupils recognise excellence and develop attentive listening skills.
- Opportunities for pupils to perform their own instrumental pieces during Singing Assembly, Celebration Assembly and whole-school events such as Sports Day and VE Day, enabling children to share their achievements and build confidence as performers.

These musical experiences play a vital role in enriching our curriculum, inspiring pupils and fostering a culture of musical enjoyment across the school. By providing regular opportunities to watch, participate in and reflect on live performance, we ensure that pupils develop confidence, curiosity and a lifelong appreciation for music.

In the future

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

At Belswains Primary School, we remain committed to continually developing and enhancing our music provision to ensure that all pupils receive a rich, inspiring and high-quality musical education. Looking ahead, we aim to introduce a range of improvements across curriculum music, co-curricular activities and wider musical experiences. These developments will further nurture pupils' musical talents, strengthen progression and deepen their appreciation of music in the years to come.

Key areas of future development include:

- Consistent opportunities for pupils to perform at the start of Singing Assemblies, supporting confidence, performance readiness and celebration of musical achievement.
- Expanding the Musician of the Week initiative to reflect the diverse cultures and backgrounds represented within our school community, promoting inclusion and cultural appreciation.
- Increasing access to live musical performances from professional musicians, giving pupils more opportunities to experience high-quality live music and broaden their musical horizons.
- Introducing music workshops for all year groups, offering hands-on experiences with instruments, composition and performance led by specialist musicians.
- Strengthening professional development for staff, including targeted CPD sessions, team-teaching opportunities, collaborative planning, improved assessment techniques and enhanced use of technology in music.
- Implementing the YUMU platform across the school, providing logins for all pupils and encouraging regular use of YuStudio to support composition, digital musicianship and independent learning.
- Expanding support for private instrumental tuition, with the aim of offering a wider range of instruments and increasing accessibility for pupils.
- Using assessment for gap analysis, with the Subject Lead regularly reviewing assessment data and long-term overviews to identify gaps in learning and address them promptly.

- Increasing the use of school instruments in practical lessons, ensuring pupils have more opportunities to explore, practise and perform using a variety of instruments.
- Continuing to strengthen community cohesion through performance, including annual performances at Tesco Jarman Park and multiple visits throughout the year to Watermill House Care Home and other local venues and businesses.

These planned developments reflect our ongoing commitment to excellence in music education. By expanding opportunities, strengthening progression and deepening community engagement, we aim to ensure that every pupil at Belswains Primary continues to thrive musically and develops a lifelong passion for the arts.

Further information (optional)

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

For further information about our local music hub, the Hertfordshire Music Service website provides an overview of additional extra-curricular musical opportunities available to children across the county, including instrumental lessons, music centre activities and wider community ensembles. Their provision supports young people in accessing high-quality music education beyond school and offers pathways for continued musical progression. [Hertfordshire Music Service](#)