

Music development plan summary: Belswains Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
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

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, We have thoroughly examined the Model Music Curriculum guidelines to refine and improve our approach to music education. Our curriculum is designed with a strong emphasis on listening and appraising which incorporates music from all time periods, genres and cultures. This guarantees that our students gain a comprehensive and profound grasp of music, nurturing a lifelong appreciation and passion for the subject.

Across the academic year, each year group has a minimum of 1 hour of music weekly, with one class accessing whole class ensemble practice through the Hertfordshire Music Service with recorder sessions. Both KS1 and KS2 have a 20 minute singing assembly each week led by the Music Lead teacher.

We follow the English Model Music Curriculum Scheme devised by Charanga.

Taken from the website, they share: “Charanga’s English Model Music Curriculum Scheme is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) Guidance published by the DfE in 2021.

This Scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with ‘I Can’ statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids.

Our Scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.”

Please see our school guidelines here: [belswains-music-guidelines-2023-2024.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/belswains-music-guidelines-2023-2024.pdf)

Please see our school curriculum map here: [music-curriculum-map-2023-2024.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/music-curriculum-map-2023-2024.pdf)

Please see our Barriers to learning and Solutions document for Music here: [barriers-to-learning-music.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/barriers-to-learning-music.pdf)

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 prioritize offering a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond standard curriculum teaching. We provide numerous opportunities for children to play music, participate in performances, and share their talents with others.

- **Whole KS Singing Assemblies**

Led by our Music Lead, singing assemblies are a vital part of our music program. These sessions are not just for collective singing; they also teach important concepts like pitch, notation, and dynamics. Additionally, this shared singing experience fosters a sense of community and collective joy in music-making.

- **KS2 Choir Club**

Our KS2 Choir Club, currently available to students in Years 4-6, has been a dynamic component of our music program throughout this academic year. The choir offers children the chance to enhance their vocal skills, learn to sing in

harmony, and perform live at prestigious venues and events. Notably, our choir has participated in the Young Voices Choir at Wembley Arena and the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall. These experiences provide children with the excitement of performing in renowned venues and being part of a larger musical community, boosting their confidence in their performances.

- **Instrumental Learning Opportunities**

We value instrumental learning as an essential component of a comprehensive music education. We offer whole-class ensemble teaching and small-group lessons to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument during their time at Belswains.

- **iRock Music Sessions**

Our collaboration with iRock School of Music is an exciting element of our music program. iRock offers sessions where children can choose to sing or play instruments like drums, keyboards, and electric guitars. The children form bands and perform together, culminating in a performance for the school and parents at the end of the term. These engaging sessions allow pupils to explore various music genres, fostering creativity and enthusiasm. The hands-on experience with these instruments also keeps children motivated and invested in their musical growth.

Children eligible for Pupil Premium funding can opt to use this support to participate in any of the aforementioned musical activities. This ensures that all students, regardless of their financial background, have access to these enriching experiences and opportunities to develop their musical talents.

Our co-curricular music activities are designed to complement and enrich the core curriculum, offering pupils a well-rounded musical education. Through regular practice, performance opportunities, and exposure to diverse musical styles and instruments, students can enhance their skills and deepen their appreciation and enjoyment of music. These activities provide a platform for students to explore their musical interests more fully, fostering a lifelong 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. These experiences expose children to new environments and offer the opportunity to experience live music first-hand. Attending live performances not only

broadens their musical horizons but also inspires and enriches their understanding and appreciation of the art form.

Some of the musical performance we provide for our children at Belswains are:

- Attending the shows at Abbots Hill School
- Dress rehearsals for our school Nativity and the KS1/KS2 shows
- iRock concerts
- World Music Day 2024 performances
- Musician visits, supported by Hertfordshire Music
- Artist performances at the Young Voices and the Royal Albert Hall
- Live recordings of Musicians show for the Musician of the Week in whole KS Singing Assembly

In the future

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

At Belswains, we are committed to continually improving our music program to uphold the highest standards and offer enriching experiences for all our students. Looking ahead, we aim to introduce significant enhancements in curriculum music, co-curricular activities, and musical experiences. These initiatives will further nurture our students' musical talents and deepen their appreciation for music in the years to come.

Some of these improvements include:

- Yearly Recorder tuition for year group for **at least half a term.**
- Opportunities for children to perform at the start of singing assemblies
- Musician of the week to link to cultures/backgrounds of children in the school.
- More live musical performances from professional musicians.
- Music workshops for all year groups.
- More professional development for teachers: CPD sessions to cover any identified needs/improvements, team teaching/planning, assessment techniques and use of technology in music
- Introduction of YUMU platform for the school and use of YuStudio
- Further support for private tuition lessons in a wide range of instruments
- Assessments for Gap analysis: SL to regularly review assessment data and long term overviews to pinpoint any areas where students have potential gaps in learning and addressing these.

Further information (optional)

To supplement our office at school, 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.