

Music development plan summary: *William Murdoch Primary*

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 -26
Date this summary was published	Oct 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sep 2026
Name of the school music lead	John Blackmore
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	John Blackmore
Name of local music hub	Birmingham Services for Education

Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Services for education - Birmingham Music Hub peripatetic teachers: Jessica Lawrence – Violin Gurdeep Dharni – Sitar & Tabla Helen Phipps: Vocals Matthew Ludford-King – Brass Laura Tabrett – Woodwind William Wood – Guitar
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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.

William Murdoch Primary school's music curriculum lead, has sought and received Continual Professional Development (CPD) in this chosen area of responsibility. He has attended the annual Birmingham Music Education Conference at Birmingham, and also attended twilight sessions for music leads, hosted in partnership with the Birmingham Music Hub. To increase effectiveness of music tuition and pupil progress in learning music within school, the music curriculum lead has arranged the provision of twilight sessions and whole school CPD teacher training day Insets led by music specialists to support non-specialist staff in their delivery of the school's music curriculum offering set out below.

Nursery and Reception years undertake 30 minutes each week, for the whole duration of the year. Year 4 pupils receive 36 hours of weekly 1-hour instrumental teaching on a brass, woodwind or stringed instrument

In years 1,3 5 and 6 respectively, all children currently receive a minimum of 6 hours of music per term, delivered in 1-hour sessions throughout the term.

In our EYFS department, pupils undertake the Sound Tots programme delivered by music specialists from the Birmingham Music Hub. Musical tuition uses whole body movements, body and simple instrument percussion, songs, musical games and activities specifically purposed to develop in our pupils a strong sense of rhythm, beat, pitch and tempo.

In Years 1 and 2, pupils learn to listen and appraise music of different musical styles, and how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together. Pupils learn songs by heart, identifying some instruments used in songs they hear. Pupils learn to sing in differing pitches, rhythm and tempo. Pupils learn to play tuned instruments, treating them carefully and with respect. All pupils learn to play the glockenspiel. Pupils' musical progression is developed through opportunities for listening, singing, improvisation and composition using up to three notes, graphically depicted, or using the Sol-fa (do re mi) system. Pupils practise performance within lessons taught and perform to others in assemblies, using the voice and playing instruments.

In Year 3 pupils learn to talk about any of the dimensions of music featured in songs from different eras and musical styles they hear – texture, dynamics, tempo, rhythm and pitch. Pupils sing in unison and in tune. They identify main sections of songs and instruments they hear in songs. Pupils listen carefully and respectfully to music and other peoples' thoughts about music and songs they hear. Pupils play differentiated parts on a tuned instrument, learn to improvise and compose in any way appropriate recognising the connection between pictorial/graphical notation and sound. Pupils are introduced to the stave and clef and given an understanding of the difference between crochets and paired quavers.

Pupils from Year 4 take part in the Whole Class Instrumental Tuition programme which is delivered once a week during term time. Pupils are taught how to play either the clarinet, guitar or trumpet leading to experiences of ensemble playing, improvisation and performance.

During the WCIT programme the children learn:

- to value the experience of playing an instrument in an ensemble and to develop independent learning skills and develop their social skills
- to develop aural discrimination and aural memory skills
- to develop technical control of the instrument
- to explore and play rhythmic and melodic patterns
- to create and develop musical ideas
- to play simple pieces, developing individual and ensemble skills and linking sound to visual signals/ written symbols
- to reflect on and evaluate their own performances and those of others
- how music reflects the time and place in which it is created and in particular the musical context of the instrument they are learning
- to develop an awareness of performance and non-performance situations, to rehearse and to perform

In Years 5 and 6, pupils explore improvisation using both major and minor scales. Pupils encounter different time signatures and scales, experimenting with different rhythmic patterns including the use of rests, by ear or using Western musical notation. Pupils are taught how to justify a personal opinion about a piece of music with reference to its musical elements. Playing an instrument of their choice they have

consistently learned to play throughout their musical journey, pupils play a melody, following staff notation and composer instructions concerning dynamic range. Pupils experiment with digital composition using the stave, treble clef, a time signature and rhythmic combinations of different scale notes. When singing in unison, pupils practice and perform vocally, a broad range of songs with a strong sense of communal togetherness to an audience.

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.

In partnership with Birmingham Music Hub, in Key stage 2 through elective provision, the music curriculum offering is broadened to offer pupils the opportunity to learn violin, brass, clarinet, guitar and sitar and tabla. Pupils are given weekly instruction by a specialist peripatetic teacher within school time and afterwards collectively play together in out of school hours music clubs and ensembles. Weekly music clubs for all instruments are hosted in a dedicated practice room throughout term time. All Key Stage 2 pupils, are given the opportunity to sing in the school choir.

Year 4 WCIT pupils are strongly encouraged to join these music clubs to gain the additional experience of playing together with other musicians in an ensemble/orchestral setting and to derive benefit from playing alongside older, more experienced electives.

William Murdoch truly promotes equality of opportunity for all. In light of this, the school bears a considerable cost in ensuring all peripatetic music provision is free of charge to all pupils. Every elective pupil is loaned their instrument at no cost to their family for the duration of their instrumental studies.

Part C: Musical performances

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.

Throughout the year, pupils are given the opportunity to showcase their talent to a wider audience in year group, Key Stage and whole school assemblies.

Weekly singing assemblies are held for Years 1-3, and Years 4-6 led by the school's choir mistress, Mrs Jacobs. Pupils learn to sing songs from different musical traditions, genres and cultures.

Major religious festivals are celebrated in EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Pupils commemorate events such as Diwali, Christmas, Mother's Day and Easter with musical, dramatic performances for audiences comprising fellow pupils, parents and invited members of the wider community. Each year group is assigned responsibility for staging a specific religious or cultural performance, with pupils performing as singers, musicians, actors and dancers.

Pupils attend annual musical galas and other public musical events. Each year, our musical ensembles and school choir perform at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, CBSO premises and Birmingham Symphony Hall. Their public performance repertoires include music played just by themselves as the William Murdoch ensemble as in the case of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire annual event, as well as playing together as part of an en-masse orchestra and choir in collaboration with other schools in the annual Youth Proms at Symphony Hall. Many of our musicians have also participated in the annual digital City-Wide Music Festival hosted on Facebook. We are proud that some of our musicians are at a standard of excellence that they participate in wider Birmingham school youth bands for wind and brass on weekends hosted in other parts of the city.

A strength of William Murdoch's musical offering is Indian subcontinent instrumental music, played on the Sitar and Tabla. Our pupils perform publicly each year at the abovementioned venues.

In the future

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

To provide further opportunity for pupil engagement in instrumental ensembles, Year 4 pupils are now offered WCIT clarinet lessons. This will have the benefit of easier integration of these pupils and future clarinet electives into the school music ensemble.

To date, children wishing to receive formal recognition of their musical skills and progress have been offered the opportunity of sitting formal music exams with bodies such as Trinity music. The cost is a barrier to many. In light of this, Birmingham Music Services for Education, the Birmingham Music hub, is offering a more cost-effective music medal award, SFE Notes, for music elective pupils. Moving forwards pupils playing instruments will be offered the opportunity to gain a recognised achievement award at a very modest cost to parents.

William Murdoch Primary is always endeavouring to engage and foster closer working relationships with musicians in/from other educational settings. With assistance from

the Birmingham Music Hub we seek to establish closer musical ties with our neighbouring primary and secondary feeder schools.

Further information (optional)

Model Music Curriculum

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6061f6a3e90e072d94e6f920/Model_Music_Curriculum_Key_Stage_1_2_FINAL.pdf

National Plan for Music Education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people/what-the-national-plan-for-music-education-means-for-children-and-young-people>