

Music development plan summary: West Town Lane Academy overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	03.09.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	03.09.25
Name of the school music lead	Ms E Percival-Haines
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Bristol Beacon
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 and how much time is spent teaching music.

Children receive music instruction year-round, following the Charanga scheme of work. All units support a creative and active musical approach to lessons, connecting singing and playing, composing and improvising, listening and appraising. Lessons last between 30-45 minutes and are taught by class teachers.

Children also have the opportunity to learn instruments through whole-class ensemble tuition (WCET) provided by Bristol Beacon. These sessions provide a 'jumping off' point for all children to dive into instrumental learning. In Year 3, students learn samba drums and in Year 5, the ukulele. Bristol Beacon provides the instruments, ensuring

they are well-maintained and in proper working condition. Lessons are taught by tutors employed by Bristol Beacon.

The units are delivered in 10-week blocks, culminating in performances for other year groups.

Children also take part in high quality regular singing assemblies in their key stages which last around 20 minutes. They are taught a wide range of songs from different genres and with a range of meanings. The musical language in these assemblies aligns with the curriculum to reinforce the knowledge and skills being developed.

Our curriculum aligns with the Model Music curriculum, ensuring a comprehensive range of musical skills are taught. It is designed to show clear progression each year, helping children develop skills in composing, improvising, appraising, notating, and singing in parts. We ensure that the interrelated dimensions of music, such as pitch and dynamics, are integrated into all lessons, providing children with a working knowledge of these elements for composing and singing.

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.

Children in KS1 and 2 have the opportunity to join the school choir, which performs at various events. Choir practice, including vocal warm-ups and song rehearsals, takes place after school on Tuesdays (KS2) and during lunch time for KS1. Choirs are organised and run by the Mrs Owen (KS2) and Mrs Franklin (KS1).

Children from Years 1 – 6 have the option of taking part in Rock Steady lessons once a week, where they work on playing or singing as part of a band with members from different year groups. These bands perform in a concert, which parents are invited to attend, at the end of terms 2, 4 and 6.

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.

Children have numerous performance opportunities throughout their time at the school.

- At Christmas, Reception perform in their own nativity, Years 1 and 2 put on a Christmas show and Year 4 attend Bristol Cathedral for their Bristol School's carol service.
- All key stage 2 children take part in a family carol service before the Christmas holidays.
- Each year group performs a song as part of their class assembly.
- Year 6 perform the school leavers song in their leavers assembly.

All children watch a performance by a traveling musical theatre group at school, once a year.

In Term 6, Year 5 children attend a show at a local theatre, experiencing high-quality acting and singing.

In the future

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

We are planning to introduce small group music tuition at WTLA this year.

Tuition will be organised and booked through Bristol Beacon, with lessons conducted in our Discovery rooms. Pupils entitled to Pupil Premium will be eligible for discounted lessons. For additional ensemble opportunities, we will guide our younger musicians to Bristol Beacon ensembles, which cater to all ability levels.

Our goal for our KS2 choir is to participate in the Beacon Summer Sing and Winter Sing alongside other schools across Bristol.

Additionally, we hope to invite local musicians and singing groups to perform at our school, giving our children more opportunities to experience high-quality live music.

Further information

Our school's Music School Development Plan is updated at the beginning of each academic year, providing the subject lead with a clear action plan to ensure that our music provision is effective and relevant for all our students. This plan also facilitates our engagement with city-wide music events.

Our music education hub, Bristol Beacon, is appointed by the DfE and Arts Council to support schools across the city. For more information on learning an instrument, joining an ensemble, or accessing further training opportunities, please visit [Bristol Beacon](#).