Music development plan summary: Bourton Meadow Academy

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	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	03 November 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	30 October 2027
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Freeman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Freeman
Name of local music hub	Buckinghamshire Music Trust
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, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Curriculum Time

Children receive 30 minutes of curriculum music each week in Early Years and Key Stage 1, increasing to 40 minutes in Key Stage 2. All children also take part in a weekly singing assembly.

Our lessons are practical in nature, with performing, composing and listening at the heart of every topic. Inspired by the Kodály approach, singing plays a vital role in every lesson. This helps to make music accessible to all children, while carefully planned differentiation provides opportunities for every pupil to develop their skills, build confidence and be appropriately challenged.

Early Years

In Early Years, we focus on developing children's sense of beat and pitch, alongside their ability to explore, experiment with and combine different sounds. Topics include *Stories in Music*, *Graphic Scores* and *Carnival of the Animals*. Children have regular opportunities to explore and perform using a variety of untuned percussion instruments.

Year 1

In Year 1, children continue to develop their understanding of beat and pitch, while beginning to read and perform simple notation using the Kodály method. Topics include *Samba*, *Waltz and March* and *Djembe Drumming*. Children develop their practical musicianship skills using a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

Year 2

In Year 2, children build on their ability to read and perform simple notation using the Kodály method. By the end of the year, we aim for children to feel confident reading and performing rhythms using ta (crotchets), titi (quavers) and taa (minims), alongside recognising and singing pitches using do, re, mi and so.

Topics include *Famous Composers*, *Pentatonic Music* and *Ukuleles*. Children explore a range of instruments throughout the year, including tuned and untuned percussion, djembe drums and ukuleles.

Year 3

Year 3 sees the introduction of our **Wider Opportunities programme**, in which every child spends a term learning to play the violin, recorder and djembe drums. Rhythm and reading musical notation remain important elements of these lessons, and the skills children develop are celebrated through end-of-term performances.

Having experienced learning a string, woodwind and percussion instrument, many children are inspired to continue their musical journey by taking up individual or small-group lessons with one of our resident instrumental teachers.

Year 4

In Year 4, children begin with a unit focusing on rhythm, consolidating their previous learning before being introduced to tika-tika (semiquavers). Other topics include *Music from Around the World* and *The Eras of Music* (Baroque, Classical and Romantic).

Children continue to develop their instrumental skills using a range of instruments, including tuned and untuned percussion, ukuleles and djembe drums.

Year 5

In Year 5, children become familiar with increasingly complex rhythms, including dotted rhythms, and develop their ability to read and use all the notes of the musical scale.

A wide range of topics are covered, including *The Blues* and *Peter and the Wolf*. Instruments used throughout the year include glockenspiels, ukuleles, djembe drums and keyboards.

Year 6

In Year 6, children continue to develop their understanding of more complex rhythms using the Kodály method, including triplets. They learn to distinguish between major and minor keys and undertake a melody-writing project, developing their ability to read and write musical notation in the treble clef.

Other topics include *Music from World War II*, *Chords, Scales and Rock 'n' Roll* and *Film Music*. Children use a wide range of instruments, including glockenspiels, ukuleles, djembe drums and keyboards, as they develop their musical knowledge, skills and confidence in preparation for the next stage of their musical journey.

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.

Instrumental Programme

Bourton Meadow Academy has a team of instrumental teachers who visit the school to offer lessons across a wide variety of instruments. We work closely with BMT, our local music hub, which provides the majority of our instrumental teaching and offers financial support towards lessons, including a 50% subsidy for children eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Instruments currently available include:

- Violin
- Cello
- Piano
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Recorder
- Guitar
- Ukulele
- Drums

Take-up of instrumental lessons has increased significantly in recent years, and we continue to build on this success, with a particular focus on encouraging more children to explore wind instruments.

Singing Assembly

Singing assemblies are organised by key stage and provide an opportunity for children to enjoy singing a wide range of musical styles. They help to develop vocal technique, musical understanding and confidence, while encouraging children to sing together as part of a larger group.

Songs linked to significant events, celebrations and occasions throughout the school calendar are also incorporated into our assemblies.

Choir

From Year 4, children are invited to join our school choir, which is free of charge and rehearses once a week after school. We currently have approximately 60 children taking part.

The choir performs at a wide range of events throughout the year, including Young Voices and local community events such as the Buckingham Christmas Light Switch-On and Buckingham Live.

Every two years, the choir also has the opportunity to take part in the Buckinghamshire Music Trust performance at the Royal Albert Hall, an exciting and memorable experience for our young singers.

The School Band – Melody Makers

Children who receive lessons on a musical instrument are invited to join Melody Makers, our school band. Participation is free of charge, and the group rehearses once a week after school.

We currently have approximately 20 children in the band, playing a range of different instruments. Children develop their ensemble skills and confidence through regular rehearsals, working towards performances in school assemblies and an end-of-term concert to which parents and carers are invited.

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.

Singing Assembly Performances

Each week, an instrumentalist is invited to perform during our singing assembly. This provides children with the opportunity to experience live instrumental music, discover different instruments and hear a variety of musical styles.

Year Group Performances

All children from Nursery to Year 6 take part in a performance each year. These opportunities include Key Stage 1 nativities, Year 3 and 4 curriculum performances, the Year 5 *Five Live* event and the Year 6 end-of-year musical.

These performances give children the opportunity to showcase their musical skills, develop confidence and experience the enjoyment of performing to an audience.

Wider Opportunities

Alongside their annual performance, Year 3 pupils take part in two additional performances as part of our Wider Opportunities programme. These provide valuable opportunities to showcase the range of pieces they have learnt through whole-class practical musicianship lessons.

Young Voices

Each year, our school choir takes part in Young Voices, a large-scale concert in a professional performance venue. This is an exciting opportunity for children to perform alongside thousands of other young singers, accompanied by live musicians.

Echoes

Every two years, our choir takes part in Echoes, a special Buckinghamshire Music Trust performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London. This provides children with the opportunity to perform in one of the country's most prestigious concert venues as part of a wider celebration of school music.

Performances held at school are free for parents and carers to attend, with families allocated two complimentary tickets for each performance. There is sometimes a small charge for musical trips outside school to cover transport and/or entrance fees, where applicable. Financial support is available for pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Community Performances

Performances within the local community now take place throughout the year, at events such as the Buckingham Christmas Light Switch-On and Buckingham Live. We also enjoy visiting a local care home during the festive period to share music and Christmas songs with residents.

These experiences help children to recognise the value of music beyond the classroom and develop a sense of pride in contributing to their local community.

In the future

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

We are committed to continuing to develop and strengthen music provision at Bourton Meadow Academy. Our priorities include:

- Continuing to promote music and increase participation in instrumental lessons, particularly among pupils in Key Stage 2.

- Ensuring that pupils with SEND and those eligible for Pupil Premium funding are actively encouraged, supported and empowered to access the full range of musical opportunities available to them.
- Building on our existing performance opportunities to ensure that all children can experience the enjoyment and achievement of making music together.

Our aim is to ensure that every child has the opportunity to discover, develop and celebrate their musical abilities, whatever their starting point.