

Music development plan summary: St Nicholas CoE Primary, Blackpool

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Julian Guillot
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	C Taylor
Name of local music hub	Blackpool Music Service
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.

Our school's music policy is already published on our website and is available here:

[Music Policy 2023.pdf \(schudio.com\)](#)

We recognise the importance of music for all and ensure music is accessible for all pupils. Learning is adapted and relevant support is provided through the class teacher where required.

Music forms an important part of our school offer and we follow the Model Music Curriculum using Charanga to support teachers with planning and progression. Lessons are taught fortnightly in hour sessions due to timetable constraints although we would love to teach for one hour each week as per the suggested amount.

Lessons within Charanga always include a song and the learning is then extended from there. Instruments are introduced (glockenspiels/recorders) to enhance the

experience for the children. Wider Ops from BMS forms the music teaching in Y4. We are successfully providing all Y4 children brass tuition to a high standard. This leads on to private lessons in Y5 and Y6.

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.

We have an SLA in place with BMS to provide music tuition. Currently we are focussing on brass due to existing expertise in school. We offer brass lessons to the children in Y5 and Y6 and the take up is good. This year, around 40% of children/parents from the Y4 wider ops lessons have signed up for brass lessons. This in turn, leads on to our brass band which has been running for two years now with around 30 Y5 and Y6 children currently playing in concerts and competitions.

Instrument lessons are charged at £4 per week. This is to cover the cost of the peripatetic staff and instruments from BMS. We try to not allow cost to be prohibitive if a child shows talent/enthusiasm for playing an instrument.

The KS2 choir has been running successfully for many years and takes part in concerts/competitions and events throughout the year. There are around 60 children currently involved in the choir and two staff members who run it as an after school club all year round.

A KS1 (mini) choir has recently started. Around 30-40 children meet and learn about being in a choir and singing in an ensemble. They have performed at church and school events.

The two choirs are a free offer to children run totally by school staff as part of their working week.

Rehearsal space is limited in school. The band is currently using the library as the only place large enough to accommodate them all. The choir runs in the hall after school and mini choir takes place in a classroom after school.

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.

School has a good reputation for music and specifically the singing in assemblies. The children are encouraged to take part enthusiastically and the music chosen is modern worship music as well as some more traditional songs. In choir and band, all leaders see the value in a wide repertoire which recognises our church school and the modern world we live in. Whole school singing practice does take place but is on more of an ad hoc basis when a specific rehearsal is required. This is something that could be formalised and improved upon.

The school choir take part in the local choir competition each year in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom where they are usually placed in one of the top three prize winning positions. This is a great venue for the children to experience. We have recently begun to increase our presence at church as well with 3-4 visits on Sundays already happened and others planned. Mothering Sunday, Easter etc.

School has produced a Christmas and Summer concert for the last few years including the different ensembles and soloists. We normally charge a small amount for parent to attend these events which then allows us to pay for transportation to other events throughout the year.

With our newly formed brass band we have performed at the BMS Christmas Festival for the last two years. This takes place at the winter Gardens and is a prestigious venue to perform in. We have also performed at some national events through connections to Brass Bands England.

The Reception nativity and KS1 carol singing is a highlight of the year and Y3 have performed a Christingle Service for many years in church. Y6 have produced their end of year show for many years. All of these performances rely on music/singing and are produced to a high standard. Each class lead worship once throughout the school year and it is not unusual for music to feature in these events.

In the future

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

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Continue to develop our music ensembles – vocal and instrumental.
- Children to be given more opportunities to perform as the above groups develop, therefore raising the profile of these ensembles within the community.
- Further develop engagement in extra-curricular music for Pupil Premium and SEND children.
- Develop a dedicated music teaching space for use by ensembles and class curriculum lessons.

Further information (optional)

As our music teaching flourishes within school, the teachers are becoming more enthusiastic for music learning. So much so that we have started an adult brass group with instruments provided by BMS. They are progressing well and of course, what they are learning about playing and theory, they are able to bring into their own teaching in curriculum lessons.

As a local musician who is involved in making music, I see a gap where young people are not feeding through to local ensembles. I know these groups are keen to make connections and build connections with local musicians, this gives the young learners a place to continue their music making as they grow up. This is an area I would like to develop and build on.