Music development plan summary: Westminster Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Josh Vincent
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Blackpool Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Westminster is proud to be both a Music Mark and Music Ambassador accredited school. At Westminster, music is taught by a specialist teacher and, as a result, high quality music lessons are given to all pupils. Lessons are planned and delivered following the National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, and Expressive Art and Design taken from Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Class lessons include playing percussion instruments, keyboards, ukulele, recorders and singing.

Children at Westminster have a dedicated music lesson each week. Music lessons for key stage 1 and 2 are held in the Music Room and are 45 minutes in length. Lessons consist of 3 groups per year group. There are 2 larger groups of no more than 22 children, and one smaller group. This is to ensure all children's needs are met and so that children can access extra help if needed. It is also implemented so that lessons

can be quieter, keeping in mind, some pupils' intolerance to louder sounds. In addition to the 45 minutes, a further 15 minutes of music time is spread over the week and takes place in classrooms so that class teachers and pupils can enjoy listening to music and singing together. Pupils are taught to read music, to play as a soloist and in ensembles. Focus is centred on creating opportunities for all pupils to 'enjoy and achieve'. The interactive music website 'Charanga' is used in some music lessons and 'Charanga Music World' is available for all our key stage 2 pupils to access without charge at home. As a school, we have very strong ties to Blackpool Music Service, we use them for workshops, instrument loan, peripatetic lessons and we attend the majority of their extra-curricular events.

The curriculum at school has been redesigned this year and is based on the Model Music Curriculum for the suggested learning and assessment outcomes. Whilst the National Curriculum is used as a basis, we feel that the MMC offers more depth so we have developed a music curriculum that meets both documents whilst using the MMC as a structure.

Through music we can learn various aspects of diversity. We encourage our children to share music from their own cultures and celebrate the performance of them singing in their native language.

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.

In addition to curriculum lessons, clubs are held pre-school most mornings and include drums, keyboard tuition and choir. We also offer ukulele and rock band tuition for targeted children during the school day. Ukulele lessons are used to improve our better players, to encourage our less confident players and are offered as an incentive to those children who struggle with SEMH needs but excel in music. At Key stage 2, in addition to the instruments taught in class lessons, other instrumental lessons are taught in small groups by the peripatetic teachers from Blackpool Music Services. These instruments include; violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, tenor horn, flute, clarinet, drums, baritone and euphonium. Orchestral instruments and instrumental tuition are offered free of charge and include strings, percussion and brass lessons offered peripatetically to children. The children who receive instrumental lessons are encouraged to accelerate progress by performing in the community orchestra held at the school, in playing with a Blackpool Music Service Band and through working towards BMS medals and ABRSM exam qualifications.

As a school, we are proud to boast one of the largest primary school ensembles in the Blackpool area and our orchestra performs in large concerts at least 3 times annually. We attend a Christmas concert, Schools Alive and we host an in-house concert at the end of the summer term. Additionally, our choir performs numerous times throughout the year – singing at various events in the community such as a local Christmas lights switch on, a residential home, a church Christmas fayre and at the Christmas concert alongside our orchestra. The choir also joins in with the summer concert and other opportunities to perform throughout the year.

Not only are instrument lessons available free of charge to our children but they also have the opportunity to make progress outside of school hours where they can take their instrument home – again free of charge – and have the opportunity to further the learning from their lessons in their own time. Peripatetic instrument lessons are offered to children from Year 3 upwards. Currently, 100 children across Key Stage 2 are having some form of instrument lesson – be that instrumental or vocal.

Children who are considered more capable musicians have access toi the music room during lunch times to extend their knowledge, try out different instruments and practise the ones that they are already learning. This privilege is available to children in year 5 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.

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Children are exposed to a broad spectrum of musical styles during 3 assemblies per week. Children enter the hall listening to music ranging from current pop, to classical assembly songs, to music from the great composers. Children learn to sing songs with powerful meaning as well as learning to appreciate music from different cultures and different eras. Children get the opportunity throughout the year to see live performances including pantomime at Christmas and also shows on the stage at local

theatres linked to curriculum topics. Trips include visits to watch shows and Pantomimes at the Grand Theatre. We also have pantomimes performed in school by theatre groups. This has been funded through parental donation, school funding and local business donations.

Our children experience music in many facets of their education and music really does have a huge profile at Westminster. Children enjoy music, children engage well with the music curriculum and it is a real badge of honour to be a musician here.

In the future

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

Future Developments & Digital Integration

Looking ahead, we aim to embed the use of floorbooks as a central pedagogical tool to document and celebrate musical progress. Our goal is to ensure these records are highly accessible, providing a transparent window into the music curriculum for children, parents, leaders and class teachers alike.

Inclusion & Targeted Support

We are committed to fostering an inclusive environment where every child receives the bespoke support necessary to flourish. To achieve this, we will continue to refine our SEND provision through adaptive teaching, while simultaneously developing "stretch and challenge" opportunities for our most musically able pupils.

Live Performance & Enrichment

Increasing exposure to high-quality live music is a core priority. We intend to facilitate a visit from the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) and will collaborate with partner schools to share best practices for hosting world-class ensembles. This initiative will ensure our pupils experience the inspirational power of live performance first hand.

Further information (optional)

Link to Blackpool Music Service: https://blackpoolmusicservice.co.uk/

National Plan for Music: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education