

Music development plan summary: Birkwood Primary School

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	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Rennison
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	South Yorkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Grimethorpe Colliery Band

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.

The music curriculum at Birkwood Primary School is based on a two-year cycle for Key Stage 2 and a one-year cycle for EYFS and Key Stage 1. Music is taught as a discrete subject with each year group aspiring to teach an hour of music each week.

The teaching of music begins in our Nursery and builds throughout pupils' time at Birkwood, with the hope of developing the musicians of the future. In EYFS, music is taught through the key areas of the Early Years Framework (Expressive Arts and Design, Understanding the World, Physical Development and Communication and Language). Pupils in the Early Years are given many opportunities to sing, perform and explore different instruments. Nursery rhymes, songs and poems are carefully planned into the curriculum in order to expose the children to a broad and balanced range of pieces throughout the year. Pupils take part in Dough Disco and Squiggle While You Wiggle activities which develop fine and gross motor skills through movement and music, exposing the children to different genres and styles of music from an early age. Pupils develop their understanding of tempo before pitch and dynamics.

At Birkwood Primary School, our music curriculum is delivered through the Sparkyard scheme of work. This curriculum meets the requirements of the National Curriculum for Music and follows the DfE non-statutory Model Music Curriculum. The scheme has been written in conjunction with the teachers from the South Yorkshire Music Hub so we can ensure clear links to the teaching of visiting peripatetic teachers in classroom practice. Pupils listen to a range of different musical styles, learn to sing, play, improvise and compose across a range of musical genres. Pupils have the opportunity to explore a range of tuned and untuned instruments to support their musical development. We aim to ensure the curriculum is accessible for all by beginning music teaching through aural learning and moving to notation-based sessions when and if appropriate.

Our curriculum teaches pupils how music reflects the context of the historical period or geographical location in which it was composed and teaches them to be respectful of these contexts. Pupils are also encouraged to develop their own musical preferences through exposure to a range of musical genres.

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.

At Birkwood Primary School, we offer children the opportunity to participate in a range of musical experiences outside of the core curriculum. We hope that these opportunities will lead to a passion for music and performance but crucially improve pupils' confidence and well-being.

We begin every week at Birkwood with a whole school assembly where we always sing 'The Birkwood Way'. This is our school song which promotes our core values and ethos through music. In our weekly assemblies the children are exposed to a range of different musical genres as they enter the hall and as they leave.

Our Year 4 pupils access whole class brass lessons via the South Yorkshire Music Hub. These weekly lessons provide pupils with the opportunity to explore a musical instrument and potentially take up individual lessons as a result. Our Year 2 pupils also access weekly musicianship lessons which are also provided via the Music Hub.

Children can access a range of individual and small group tuition on a range of instruments through peripatetic lessons. We offer lessons on brass, woodwind, guitar, keyboard and percussion instruments. These lessons are subsidised for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. We are extremely proud of our brass ensemble 'Birkwood Brass'. All pupils who access individual brass lessons and those who show a keen interest during whole class sessions are encouraged to join the ensemble. Children who have percussion lessons have also been a part of the ensemble in previous years, and this is something we will be keen to explore again in the future. We have strong links with Grimethorpe Colliery band who have supported the development of our brass band and who children in 'Birkwood Brass' have had the opportunity to perform alongside in a range of concerts.

We have a school choir which is open as a weekly extra-curricular club for all children from FS2 to Year 6. We are proud of the number of children that take part in the choir, and we provide a range of different performance opportunities as part of the vocal ensemble. This helps to develop the pupils' confidence and self-belief.

Children can also sign up to 'Rock Steady' lessons. These sessions allow the children to perform as part of a band with their peers. They explore instruments such as guitars, keyboards, percussion and vocals and they develop their teamwork skills as they share what they have learnt in a performance for parents and their classmates at the end of each term.

We promote other music activities which take place outside of school via the school newsletter and 'X'.

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 are given opportunities to share their musical talents in a range of events throughout the year. In the Autumn Term we host a 'Christmas Soiree' for parents, carers and members of the local community where children in the choir, Birkwood Brass and other children who have individual music lessons share the music they have been working on that term. Children in EYFS and KS1 also put on a Christmas Nativity where they share carols and songs as part of their performance. In the Spring Term we host our annual 'Birkwood's Got Talent' event where children from across the whole school are invited to share their talents. The Summer Term is when pupils from Years 5 & 6 put on their end of year show, this has included performances such as 'The Lion King' and 'Oliver'.

Year 6 pupils attend a residential to London in the Summer Term and as part of this residential they attend a theatre performance in the West End. This is a unique opportunity for the children and one which they always thoroughly enjoy.

Pupils in Year 4 who take part in whole class brass lessons attend an annual performance at The Metrodome with other local schools where they share the pieces they have been rehearsing throughout the year with an audience of parents and carers. They also have the opportunity to play alongside the pupils from other schools in a finale piece at the end of the concert.

Specialist teachers from the Music Hub are invited into school every year to put on a performance for the children from Year 1 to Year 6. The children always enjoy this experience, and it shows them what they may be able to do if they take up an instrument.

In the future

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

- Ensure the new curriculum is embedded across school
- Explore the possibility of having string instrument tuition in school
- Further develop 'Birkwood Brass' to ensure new members are encouraged to join the ensemble.
- Explore opportunities for the school choir to perform within the local community e.g. at local care homes.
- Register to take part in Barnsley's 'Big Sing'