Music development plan summary Bishop Martin Church of England Primary School

At Bishop Martin, our ambition is to give our children a vast array of experiences and opportunities to develop their musical abilities and interest. Through delivering varied musical lessons in all year groups, children will develop their skills and knowledge through singing, listening and playing instruments.

We have carefully shaped our music curriculum to ensure it is fully inclusive, relevant for the pupils we teach and develops children's curiosity about music. Working with Liverpool Anglican Cathedral to deliver specialist singing lessons, and also Resonate Hub to deliver instrumental lessons, children are given opportunities to listen and appraise a wide range of music, to give their own opinions and thoughts.
We have created a music curriculum that develops curiosity and allows children to compare and contrast a wide variety of music.

Performance is at the heart of musical teaching and learning at Bishop Martin and pupils participate in a range of performances during their school 'career'. These include Christmas services and nativities, Harvest and Easter performances, Remembrance Service, Y6 Leavers service and much more. Pupils who are confident are encouraged to perform in solo performances.

We promote independence through a range of activities ensure children are given opportunities to perform as part of a group and individually. Our curriculum is responsive to the children's needs which builds and adapts based on children's current skills and extracurricular activities.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jill Broom
Name of local music hub	Resonate
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

This is a summary of how Bishop Martin 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.

We provide a timetabled music curriculum of at least one hour per week throughout the school year. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to demonstrate clear progression in knowledge, skills and understanding, building upon and embedding prior learning as pupils move through the school.

We have strong partnerships with Liverpool Anglican Cathedral and Resonate Music Hub. School leaders regularly attend network meetings and professional development opportunities to ensure our music provision remains current, ambitious and responsive to pupils' needs.

Whole School

Music is an integral part of school life. All pupils participate in a weekly 30-minute whole-school singing session, led by the Music Lead or members of the leadership team. Singing is further developed through collective worship, where pupils engage with a wide range of listening and singing repertoire and are encouraged to lead musical elements of worship themselves.

Music also supports pupils' personal development and wellbeing. Children regularly listen to music to support self-regulation and reflection. Through our INSPIRE worship programme, pupils learn about influential musicians, composers and performers from a range of cultures, genres and historical periods.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In Reception, children access music through the Educational Programmes outlined within the EYFS Framework. Music learning is primarily developed through the Expressive Arts and Design area of learning, particularly the strand of Being Imaginative and Expressive.

Children are immersed in a range of play-based and adult-led experiences that develop their confidence, creativity and enjoyment of music. They explore rhythm, movement, singing and performance through stories, role play, nursery rhymes and songs. Children perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others and begin to move expressively and in time to music.

Key Stage 1

Year 1

Pupils develop the foundations of musicianship through the exploration of pulse, dynamics, pitch, tempo and articulation. Learning is practical, active and embodied, enabling pupils to experience musical concepts through movement, singing and performance. Children are introduced to call and response, ostinato patterns and pulse, culminating in opportunities to perform in worship and school events.

Year 2

Pupils build upon the knowledge and skills established in Year 1, developing their musical vocabulary and understanding. They explore rhythmic patterns and note values, whilst expanding their singing and performance repertoire. Pupils perform regularly throughout the year and take part in a large-scale performance at Liverpool Cathedral, providing a memorable and aspirational musical experience.

Key Stage 2

Music is delivered by specialist teachers from Resonate Music Hub, providing all pupils with access to high-quality instrumental and classroom music teaching.

Year 3

Pupils explore a range of musical styles and genres whilst developing musicianship skills through the glockenspiel. This provides a strong foundation for whole-class instrumental tuition in the upper key stage.

Years 4, 5 and 6

All pupils participate in whole-class instrumental tuition, learning either the trumpet or euphonium. Through this programme, pupils develop instrumental technique, notation reading, ensemble skills and performance confidence. Regular performance opportunities enable pupils to showcase their learning to peers, families and the wider community whilst fostering a lifelong appreciation of music.

This progressive curriculum ensures that all pupils develop as confident performers, listeners and musicians, regardless of their starting point.

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.

We have embedded a high-quality, ambitious and fully inclusive music curriculum from Reception to Year 6, ensuring clear progression in musical knowledge, skills and understanding in line with the National Curriculum. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to enable pupils to build upon prior learning and achieve well as musicians throughout their primary education.

Assessment is planned throughout the year to monitor pupil progress and inform future teaching. School staff work alongside specialist music providers to assess learning through a range of approaches, including practical performance, musical understanding, application of key musical concepts and, where appropriate, music theory. This enables us to identify strengths, address misconceptions and ensure all pupils make progress from their starting points.

Our music curriculum is designed to be fully inclusive and accessible to all learners. Lessons are adapted appropriately to meet individual needs, and both school staff and external music specialists have a secure understanding of pupils' strengths, needs and barriers to learning. This ensures that every child can participate successfully and achieve within music.

We promote diversity and cultural understanding through a carefully selected range of listening experiences, exposing pupils to music from different cultures, traditions, genres and historical periods. This broadens pupils' musical understanding and helps them appreciate the richness of music across the world.

Singing is a central part of our music provision. All pupils have regular opportunities to sing within curriculum lessons, whole-school singing assemblies and collective worship. Through these experiences, pupils develop vocal skills, musical confidence and a sense of belonging through shared musical experiences.

We actively identify pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding and work to remove barriers to participation. These pupils are prioritised for additional musical opportunities, including instrumental and vocal tuition, ensuring equitable access to high-quality music education and enrichment opportunities. Through this approach, we aim to nurture talent, broaden aspirations and ensure that all pupils can experience the benefits of sustained musical engagement.

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.

Performance is a valued and integral part of our music provision. We plan a wide range of performance and showcasing opportunities for all year groups, enabling every child to experience the joy, confidence and sense of achievement that comes from sharing music with others.

Many of these opportunities are linked to Christian celebrations and events both within school and at our local church. Parents, carers and members of the wider community are regularly invited to attend and celebrate pupils' musical achievements, strengthening the partnership between home, school and church.

In Key Stage 2, pupils participate in planned musical showcases where they present their learning and developing musical skills to their families and the wider school community. In addition, we hold termly school performances, ensuring that every year group has the opportunity to contribute to and perform in a significant musical event during the year.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils experience high-quality live music. Children have the opportunity to attend or participate in live performances at least once each year, helping to inspire future musical engagement and deepen their appreciation of music as a performance art.

Our music provision embraces a wide range of musical genres, cultures and traditions, providing pupils with diverse musical experiences that broaden their cultural understanding and appreciation. Through our weekly INSPIRE worships, children learn about influential musicians, composers and performers from different backgrounds and periods in history. Music linked to these individuals is regularly played throughout the school day, helping to immerse pupils in a rich musical environment and fostering curiosity, enjoyment and a lifelong appreciation of music.