

Music development plan summary: Balfour Primary School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Joanna Redfern
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Create Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	The Band Project

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.

At Balfour Primary our intent is that children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. Our objective at Balfour Primary is to develop a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

Our approach to the music curriculum ensures that lessons are taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour. Each class is taught for 1 hour, for half a term, three times a year. During the summer term, year 4 access whole class ensemble practice when they are taught the ukulele.

Our music curriculum is underpinned by the accelerated learning Approach to teaching and learning. The Balfour progressive curriculum document supports the progression of substantive content and concepts which have been carefully selected and well sequenced, so a child should know more and revisit knowledge and concepts to ensure depth and rigour over time. The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills thorough which the children are helped to grow and develop to succeed in 21st century Britain. This progressive curriculum allows a purposeful way of teaching and learning, enabling us to provide a more meaningful and sequential approach to the scheme for music.

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 Balfour we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our music programme is designed to offer numerous opportunities for children to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for the subject.

Lunchtime music clubs: Boomwhacker, Choir, Samba and Orchestra.

Our lunchtime clubs are open to key stage two pupils. They are a vibrant part of our music programme throughout the year and offer the children many opportunities to perform in front of audiences.

Notably, our choir performs every December at the prestigious 'One Voice' choir concert at the Brighton Centre organised by Create Music. This gives our pupils the thrill of performing in a large venue and being part of a larger musical community.

The wonderful Samba band enjoys taking part in the Children's parade, which opens the Brighton Festival every year.

Our amazing Orchestra and Boomwhacker club perform at the school Christmas and Summer Fairs.

These musical performances not only enhance the children's musical skills but also build confidence and teamwork.

Individual and small group tuition

For those children who wish to pursue music more intensively, we offer individual and small group tuition for a variety of instruments: keyboard, guitar, brass, violin and cello.

These sessions are tailored to the needs of each pupil allowing for focused and tailored instruction.

The Band Project

Our partnership with 'The Band Project' will begin in September 2024 and will bring an exciting new dimension to our music provision. The Band Project delivers sessions where children learn to play more contemporary instruments such as the drums and electric guitars and explore different genres of music fostering creativity and enthusiasm.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

Whole school singing assemblies are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience where children learn about pitch and notation.

Our co-curricular music activities are designed to complement and enhance the core curriculum, providing pupils with a comprehensive music education. Through regular practice, performance and exposure to a variety of musical styles and instruments, pupils can develop their skills and deepen their understanding of music.

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.

At Balfour Primary we offer a comprehensive music programme which includes a variety of musical events and opportunities designed to expose students to the joys of performance and foster a deep appreciation for music.

We have held many concerts in our school hall and at both secondary schools on our campus. Our children have performed at these concerts and have also enjoyed being part of the audience. This has enabled our children to experience live music in a familiar setting. Our next 'Musical Extravaganza concert' will be in the Spring term of 2025 where all children from years 1-6 will be invited to perform.

Seasonal performances are another highlight of our school programme. Each year group takes part in a Christmas concert at school and/or at a local church. This brings the community together to celebrate the festive season.

The Samba band enjoys performing at various events throughout the year: The children's parade at the Brighton Festival, The Balfour Music Extravaganza, The

Summer Fair, The Balfour Community Day, and the end of year football match Teachers V Students.

Our year 6 students have the opportunity to participate in the end-of-year production, performing on stage in our school hall. We always ensure a high-quality performance providing students with a taste of professional theatre.

Create Music provide a summer school every July for our students to attend. This is a 3–5-day course cumulating in a performance in front of parents and families.

In the future

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

At Balfour Primary School we are dedicated to continually enhancing our music education provision to ensure it meets the highest standards and provides enriching experiences for all our students.

Next year we plan to implement several key improvements in curriculum music and musical experiences to further develop our students' musical abilities and appreciation.

Termly topic front covers

From September 2025 each year group will have a tailored topic front covers that outlines the key learning objectives and knowledge and skills for each half term. This initiative will help students understand the progression of their learning. It will also facilitate better tracking of pupil progress.

Utilising assessment for gap analysis

As we move to a new assessment system in September 2025, the music lead shall regularly review the assessment data to pinpoint areas where students' potential gaps in students' learning needs to be addressed.

Further information (optional)

- The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.
- <https://createmusic.org.uk/> (Our Brighton Music hub)