

Music Development Plan Summary 2025 - 2026

Barwell Church of England Academy



Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025 - 2026 |
| Date this summary was published | October 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | April 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Mrs Lisa Stewart |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Mrs Lisa Stewart |
| Name of local music hub | Leicestershire Music Services Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | JAM music school (Junior Academy of Music) |

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.

During each term the children have the opportunity to listen to, respond to, compose and perform music and sing music/songs of various styles and from various cultures and times. Children have specific music lessons which last between 60 and 90 mins, taught in termly blocks. Each year group has a focus of specific styles and genre of music based on the Twinkle Scheme of Work. They are given the opportunity to develop specific musical knowledge and musical skills, including general musicality, during each unit. The curriculum is planned around a careful progression of skills and knowledge. The knowledge expectations are clearly set out (which also include specific musical vocabulary) and skills are developed alongside these, in a spiral curriculum approach.

Barriers to learning in music, as with all subjects, are considered at the planning stage and adjustments are made to enable each child to access the music curriculum. These adjustments include 1:1 support, ear defenders where useful, the use of iPads/technology, small group work as well as differentiated tasks where needed. Children who have prior musical knowledge are encouraged during music lessons to

share this and also have the opportunity to lead small group and sometimes class activities. They may be encouraged to lead composition, and directing small musical performances.

Prior learning is revisited at the start of each lesson and low stakes quizzing is also used to assess learning and in for next step teaching. Feedback in music is generally given during the lesson, this includes individual, small group and whole class. At the end of each unit, judgements against year group expectations are made for each child.

Our whole class ensemble tuition is aimed at year 3. These children get the opportunity to learn to play the Ukulele and are given the opportunity to perform to each other and during a whole school assembly.

Our music lead links with Leicestershire Music Hub and Discovery Trust and embraces development opportunities with them. JAM music provide live music performance too, which include our children.

Further information about our music curriculum can be found on our curriculum area of our school website.

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.

Our school offer 1:1 and small group music tuition, in addition to curricular music lessons. These lessons are offered in a range of instruments and voice. The tuition is provided by Junior Academy of Music and, if Pupil Premium children choose to take up these lessons, our school will subsidise these sessions by paying half towards them. Instrument loans may be provided free of charge by JAM music school - depending on availability and type of instrument. We encourage our children who have instrumental lessons to practise at home but can provide a suitable practise space, should they require it, during some unstructured times of the day.

Junior Academy of Music also offer all instrumental learners a chance to join in further music making during the academic year. The children are invited to attend 'jamming' session outside of the school day.

Information shared with us by Leicestershire Music Services and JAM music school, are shared with our families. This information provides further opportunities for our children to rehearse and perform beyond the school setting and can include after school, weekend and holiday clubs.

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.

Weekly singing is part of the culture at Barwell C of E Academy. Each Tuesday, the school come together to practise vocal skills and learn songs. Singing in unison, rounds and various part singing are common during these sessions. Key music skills are also embedded during this time. The school also use this as an opportunity to listen to music which is not part of their music curriculum.

A choir for the purpose of Christmas performances is developed during the Autumn Term and the children have the opportunity to perform both in our school and take up opportunities around the village the perform to the wider community too. (Eg Christmas church singing and carol singing.)

During the Summer Term, the Year 6 children take a lead in preparing a concert for the rest of the school and their families. This includes singing, dancing and acting. It is a celebration of their time here and it show cases their developed skills and confidence in the performing arts, and is enjoyed by all.

The children who choose to have small group or 1:1 tuition on a chosen instrument, or voice, during the year, are all invited to perform to the school and their families too, during the final term of the year and also mid – year when possible. Junior Academy of Music also perform with these children. Popular songs are a focus and the children perform as a large band. All children are encouraged to take part no matter what skill level they are or how many lessons they have had. This has become a tradition over the past few years that our whole school community looks forward to.

Children who learn to play the Ukulele (year 3) are given the opportunity to perform in front of their peers, other classes and the school during an assembly. This takes place in the Summer Term, after all Year 3 children have had the opportunity to develop their Ukulele playing skills. (Children in Year 4 have previously had a full year of Ukulele tuition and are offered the opportunity to continue these lessons 1:1 or in small groups in Year 5.)

School is keen to link with all local secondary schools, along with Leicestershire music services, to increase the opportunities and enrich the experiences of live music in school. Annually ideas are explored for musical performance visits to take place.

These change each year depending on availability, costings and transport options etc. In the past they have happened during both the Autumn and Summer Terms.

In the future

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

Our musical provision is always developing and improving. We have recently started to use the Twinkl curriculum and this is being monitored and evaluated as it is in its infancy.

Digital music is one area that we are keen to continue to develop. We have recently begun to explore the use of iPads for composition and the use of GarageBand software in Year 5 and 6. This is an area that we are keen to continue to develop and are keen to increase our hardware in this area.

Opportunities for interested children to continue to play the Ukulele, following their whole class tuition, is another area that we wish to develop. We have explored offering small group tuition, but are considering new ways to provide this provision both in and out of school with the teaching company.

We are constantly striving to break down the financial barriers for children who wish to learn a musical instrument. Lesson costs, instrumental costs and travelling arrangements (that can be huge barriers to children, especially our Pupil Premium children), are barriers that we are constantly faced with. We are always happy to speak with parents to try to eradicate these but we continually strive to develop ways to enable all children who wish to continue to make music beyond the classroom an accessible option.

Opportunities to perform and celebrate our music making is always a priority and we are keen to take further opportunities to do this - both in school and beyond the school environment.

Further information

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.

Your local music hub (<https://leicestershiremusichub.org/>) has further useful information regarding music making in Leicestershire schools.

If you require any further information from school, please contact our Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Lisa Stewart, via the school office.