



# Music Development Plan

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Katy Clarke
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Taylor
Name of local music hub	Dudley Music Services

At Bramford we are passionate about our pupils' experiences of Music. Music is an important and highly valued part of Bramford's academic, social and creative school life. Music is taught through discrete weekly lessons, celebrated during events, traditions and trips and enhanced through weekly singing assemblies and our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs.

At Bramford, we believe children should experience music in a wide variety of ways and so we enhance their understanding through listening, moving, singing, playing, reflecting, analysing and composing. These skills are taught whilst also developing children's knowledge of different historical periods, cultures, styles, traditions and musical genres.

We are committed to teaching our children the value of music education and providing an emotional outlet that words do not always allow. We know that ultimately, introducing music at an early age not only nurtures a child's artistic abilities but also supports their academic and personal growth in a well-rounded way. Furthermore, we are developing our children's creativity, discipline, and perseverance, through mastering an instrument or learning new songs and rhythms, which requires practice and dedication.

## Part A: Curriculum music

### Overall Aims of Music Education at Bramford

We intend that pupils will:

- discover a wide variety of music making through enjoyable experiences that will make 'life-long' memories,
- look forward to music and be excited by inspiring and engaging lessons where they are confident to express their ideas and feelings,
- develop a 'life-long' love of music as they hone their skills using instruments, their voice and appropriate technology,
- understand the impact music can have on their mental capabilities and well-being,
- know that learning an instrument or singing also boosts creativity, concentration, and coordination, while fostering important social skills like teamwork and communication,
- expand their vocabulary and know that music has a language of its own,
- Listen attentively to music and be able to discuss it by recognising its elements,
- appreciate, reflect-on and discuss the work of a range of composers and musicians from a range of historical periods, cultures, genres and traditions,
- understand how music is created, produced and communicated through exploration of the inter-related dimensions: pitch, dynamics, tempo, duration, timbre, texture and structure,
- take part in a range of engaging extra-curricular activities to enhance the aforementioned skills,
- experience 'live, professional' music in venues outside of the school environment,
- have the opportunity to play an instrument through peripatetic lessons in addition to the music curriculum being taught.



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## Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music is taught weekly by teachers who have had extensive training and ongoing support from our specialist music lead teacher. This ensures our children receive consistent, high quality music provision and experiences. Music is also integrated in with 'Expressive Arts and Design', which is a key component of early learning and fosters self-expression and creativity. Young learners enjoy foundational music activities developing their skills by singing familiar songs - often by using 'Makaton' sign language, moving rhythmically to music, playing rhythms with their bodies, using Makaton sign language and percussion instruments and exploring sound. This is all taught in line with the half term topic and wider school events, thus beginning the journey of cross-curricular learning and deepening the children's understanding of previous and current learning. These experiences support children's self-confidence, expression, communication, listening, creativity and coordination.

## Key Stage One

In KS1 pupils are taught how to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and expressing chants and rhymes,
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically,
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music,
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the interrelated dimensions of music.

## Key Stage Two

In KS2 pupils are taught how to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, control and expression,
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the interrelated dimensions of music,
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory,
- use and understand musical notations,
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians,
- develop an understanding of the history of music.

## Pride in Our Curriculum

Our Griffin Schools Trust Primary Music Curriculum was developed by the Griffin Trust Music Director, and is continually reviewed and developed alongside a creative and skills-based curriculum. Bramford's music lead also reviews and adapts it to further support the needs of our children.

The Griffin Schools Trust Primary Music Curriculum is structured as a spiral curriculum, allowing pupils to revisit key musical concepts each year to deepen their understanding and skill mastery over time. This approach ensures that foundational skills, such as pitch and voice identification, introduced in early years, are continuously built upon as pupils' progress. For example, each summer term, pupils study opera at increasing levels of complexity: Year 1 pupils begin by exploring pitch and recognising different voice types, while by Year 6, they study a variety of opera forms and develop strong performance skills, including confident, refined singing. This gradual development reinforces and extends pupils' knowledge, preparing them with a comprehensive understanding of musical concepts and performance.



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We aim to ensure that pupils develop skills, knowledge and understanding that meets and exceeds National Curriculum requirements. Mainly specialist teachers implement the bespoke scheme of work, however a robust coaching and mentoring programme offers support to class teachers to enhance their music subject knowledge.

## Music Teaching and Delivery

At Bramford, music education starts at an early age to ensure the development of fundamental skills. The Early Years and Year 1 class teachers are confident to deliver inspiring and imaginative lessons that are both discrete and integrated within other subjects and topics. Singing is an important part of wider school life and can begin to foster a passion and life-long love that is then carried into pupils' next phase of learning.

In Key Stage 1 and 2, music lessons are taught exclusively by specialist teachers who bring expertise and infectious enthusiasm to every lesson. The specialists deliver our well-rounded, exciting curriculum that include key skills such as rhythm, melody and harmony. There is also the opportunity to learn an instrument where pupils can acquire skills in drumming, ukulele and keyboards. Additionally a music specialist leads a singing assembly to enhance vocal technique, confidence and ensemble singing. During these assemblies, pupils develop their understanding of part-singing, harmonies, rounds and canons. The assemblies also strengthen their listening skills, teamwork and confidence. As singing is a central part of our wider school and cultural life, the weekly assemblies ensure pupils are ready to take part in whole school events and celebrations and are excited to volunteer for choir opportunities and musical themed trips.

We give our pupils lots of opportunities to perform and our class teachers work collaboratively with our music specialists to rehearse and support pupils in preparation for Trust events and trips, whole school events, assemblies, concerts and festivals.

Our curriculum is further enhanced by weekly lessons with peripatetic teachers, including professional musicians, from Dudley Music Services. This specialised instruction is taught for whole classes, small groups and one-one learning. This year pupils will learn the ukulele, flute, keyboard and guitar.

## Assessments

Pupils are continually assessed using lesson objectives and the National Curriculum statements. Pupil progress is monitored, captured on video and added to folders for assessment. The evidence is added to the Trust assessment tool 'Target Tracker'. Formative assessment is 'everyday' practice so that future planning can be adapted and progress is monitored. Informal discussions take place so that pupils have a good understanding of their achievements and targets for progression. Written annual reports enable parents and carers to understand how their child is progressing.

## Adaptations within the Music Curriculum

Planning is systematically adapted to ensure pupils of all needs and abilities are able to fulfil their potential and achieve.

Lesson activities can be adapted in the following ways.

- Open-ended activities: all pupils achieve by outcome and can be interpreted in a variety of ways.
- Our SEND pupils can be supported by working in small groups or 1-1 and interventions are put in place, if needed to ensure all needs are met. Our music lead is Level 4 Makaton sign Language trained and this supports EAL and SEND pupils as well as supporting all pupils to learn song lyrics.



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- Groupings are flexible so that pupils can have peer support, work in mixed ability groups to encourage and challenge or work with similar ability groups to extend their learning.
- Whole class activities are adapted so that different musical parts can have a variety of personalised challenges.
- The curriculum is adapted to provide pupils with the opportunity to celebrate familiar and unfamiliar cultures as well as 'one off' events such as sports events or world celebrations days.

### Music Awards

Pupils are encouraged to take part in the yearly Griffin Schools Trust Music Medal competition, which provides a platform to showcase musicianship and vocal skills.

## Part B: Co-curricular music

Bramford has a variety of musical instruments available and as part of the Midlands Griffin Hub, we can 'give and get' instruments and resources from our Midlands school partners. Pupils have access to a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, a full class set of samba drums, 15 keyboards, 30 glockenspiels, 15 djembe drums, 30 recorders, 30 ukuleles, 30 iPads for composition, performance and recording, stage with lighting deck and speaker system, wireless PA system.

### Music Enrichment and Extra-Curricular

Bramford staff understand the impact that music has on mental well-being and development and many of them sing, act and dance in performing arts groups, sing in choirs or play an instrument. We have 2 specialist dance teachers with a wealth of performing arts experience, a harpist, a choral singer and a brass band member. Therefore, pupils are inspired by role models who share their love of the arts through an extensive range of enrichment and extracurricular activities. The range on offer include musical theatre club, ukulele club, Glee club and choir. Pupils who sign up to these clubs year after year know that they will be able to develop a wide range of skills and they look forward to the other opportunities that being part of these clubs bring.

### Opportunities for performance

During the academic year, the Bramford calendar is full with opportunities for pupils to perform. From our Early Years tea parties where children perform a variety of songs to parents and families to our choir visiting local community groups to sing Christmas carols. The pupils know they are honing their skills ready to show off what they have learnt and they are excited to share their new skills with others. The end of year 'Summer concert extravaganza' demonstrates musical achievements that include playing instruments, dance and extracts from the yearly musical theatre club show. Class work is also showcased at this event.

## Part C: Musical experiences

Ofsted in July 2024 stated "Arts curriculum benefits from experts across the Trust. Pupils are inspired by different musicians, and they produced some impressive performances of their work. For example, the Year 5 performance of Macbeth brought together the whole year group with upbeat songs and music."

Year 4 have the opportunity to go on a theatre trip to London to see the amazing stage show Lion King. This gives them a brilliant experience whilst enabling a deep understanding of the plot and themes and then using it during class work as part of the English subject curriculum.



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All our pupils are invited to see the yearly Musical Theatre Club show. From Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* to Disney's *Seussical* it is always a masterclass in performing arts and a chance to see their peers' talents.

One of the ways we celebrate the life and works of William Shakespeare is by introducing year 5 to one of the plays through workshops, rehearsals and performances. Our aim is to engage pupils by teaching it through workshops and making it relevant for them. We use music, singing, dance and percussion to bring the stories to life. Pupils have had the opportunity to perform with pupils from other schools in the trust and to families and other year groups as part of Shakespeare day.

Griffin Children's Chorus is a proud tradition that takes place yearly. Our year 6 choir rehearses a range of traditional and cultural carols and some are sung in another language. We travel to London in December to join choirs from our extended Griffin family and sing at the prestigious St Giles church in the Barbican. We have also sung at Coventry Cathedral. A Griffin tradition and experience that will live in our pupils' memories forever.

Some pupils' first pantomime experience is when our main hall becomes a theatre for an afternoon and professional actors sing, dance and act out a well-known story with full costume, set and lighting. There is lots of audience participation and it's an afternoon filled with fun and laughter. The Wolverhampton Grand Theatre actors then deliver workshops to Year 4 and 5 pupils around the history of pantomime performances and engage them in songs from the performance.

Singing assembly takes place weekly and pupils enjoy coming together to sing songs 'old and new'. There is also the opportunity to perform these songs at other events, such as 'The Big Sing' and our outdoor summer showcase.

We have a strong partnership with Dudley Music Services who keep us up to date with events and opportunities in our local community. Pupils take part in small group and 1 to 1 music lessons provided by the service, contributions are made by parents.

We have a partnership with Ex Cathedra whose Education and Participation programmes comprise projects for schools, Music Hubs, hospitals and communities. Our 'Singing Playgrounds' project for Year 1 and 4 is an Ex Cathedra initiative.

## In the future

### The Language of Dance

Launching in 2025 'Language of Dance' is aimed at Pupils who are registered for Pupil Premium. It is a course taught by a Dance specialist with a LOD qualification. This is a wholly inclusive program allowing pupils to express themselves with music and movement and by use of 'Labanotation' picture symbols. Thus, enabling pupils to experience and improve their physical skills and learn the art of choreography in a fun and imaginative way. This opportunity is extended to different groups of pupils, as it requires 8-10 weeks of lessons. At the end of the course, pupils are awarded with a Level 1 Accreditation in 'Language of Dance', which they can carry forward into their next phases of lifelong learning.

The future of music at Bramford is very exciting and we will continue to draw on the latest scientific research proving the benefit music has on all of us. We are looking forward to attending many more music events and creating more opportunities with our Griffin Hub partnership schools.