

Music development plan summary: The Bishop William Ward CE VA Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2027
Name of the school music lead	Shelley Whitney/Toby Bull
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Toby Bull
Name of local music hub	Essex
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Essex Music Services

Vision for Music

Our vision is that **every child** develops a lifelong love of music through high-quality, inclusive and inspiring musical experiences. Music at our school builds confidence, creativity, discipline and a strong sense of community. We aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Experience success as musicians
- Perform regularly with pride
- Develop musical skills progressively
- Access live music and real instruments
- See music as something they can continue beyond school
- Foster a love for a wide variety of music and musical styles

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.

Music is taught in line with the DfE Model Music Curriculum and delivered primarily through the Charanga Musical School Scheme, ensuring a clear progression of knowledge, skills and vocabulary from EYFS to Year 6.

Curriculum Structure

- Weekly class music lessons for all pupils (EYFS–Year 6)
- Lessons taught by class teachers, supported by Charanga resources and CPD

- Singing embedded in every unit
- Opportunities to compose, perform, listen and appraise

Charanga Coverage

Charanga units ensure progression in:

- Pulse, rhythm and pitch
- Timbre and texture
- Structure and form
- Notation (graphic → staff notation)
- Improvisation and composition
- Musical vocabulary

Singing

Singing is at the heart of our music provision.

- Regular singing in music lessons and times of collective worship
- Use of Charanga vocal tracks and repertoire
- Focus on pitch, diction, expression and confidence
- Singing linked to curriculum themes
- High-quality school productions for pupils throughout the school

Instrumental Provision

- Delivered through Charanga units using tuned and untuned percussion and learning to play the recorder.
- Develops ensemble skills, notation reading and musical understanding

Year 6 Wind Band

A key strength of the school's music offer:

- All Year 6 pupils are allocated a brass or woodwind instrument for the year
- Instruments may include: trumpet, trombone, clarinet, flute, saxophone (depending on availability)
- Weekly specialist tuition
- Focus on:
 - Instrumental technique
 - Reading staff notation
 - Ensemble performance
 - Discipline and teamwork

Inclusion and Access

Music is inclusive and accessible to all pupils.

- Adaptations made for SEND pupils (e.g. simplified parts, alternative instruments)
- Visual, aural and kinaesthetic approaches embedded in lessons
- All pupils in Year 6 access a real instrument regardless of background
- Opportunities for disadvantaged pupils to continue instrumental learning where possible, in conjunction with Essex Music Services.

Part B: Co-curricular music

School Choir

The School Choir is a great strength and open to all children in Key Stage 2. The choir perform regularly in the village and wider local area, including appearances in local competitions and music festivals.

Individual Instrumental Lessons

Lessons are available through Essex Music Services for children wanting to learn to play the guitar or piano.

School Shows and Performances

All children in Key Stage 1 and Foundation Stage take part in a school nativity play, which involves singing and dancing.

Children in Key Stage 2 put on a musical production at the end of each school year. The show involves singing and dancing. A live band provide the music for the show and lighting, costumes, set and props are all part of the performance. Performances have included: Shrek, Mary Poppins, Matilda and The Lion King.

The school holds a Summer Music Concert where instrumentalists and the school choir perform to friends and families.

As part of the Musical Experiences we offer, the Year 6 wind band play alongside the Abbeygate Concert band each year, when they come in to perform for us.

Instrumentalists regularly perform as part of collective worship, including pianists playing us into the hall and drummers and guitarists accompanying the pianist for times of singing.

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.

Visiting Musicians

We take any opportunity for musicians to come and perform for the children, In the past, this has included children from the local secondary school playing and singing parts of their school shows; a band of 30 retired musicians performing in a wind band, including alongside our Year 6 band; a local swing band putting on a show that also highlighted the different instruments used; parents, staff and governors playing in the live band that accompanies the Key Stage 2 show.

In times of singing, music is played live on the piano, often accompanied with pupils on drums or guitars. At our act of remembrance, a trumpeter performs The Last Post and Revielle. The pupils perform for each other at the summer music concert and coming into the hall for collective worship.

Music History

As children come into collective worship, we work through a set series of composers, from Palestrina to Lennon and McCartney. Children see orchestras and other groups of musicians performing the music on the screen and sometimes watch the musical notation as the music is playing. Facts are given about the composers' lives and well known pieces are repeated regularly (eg. Eine Kliene Nachtmusik; Beethoven symphonies; Rhapsody in Blue; 4'33").

In the future

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

To further enhance this offer, we will be considering:

- Inviting a wider range of musicians to come and perform for the pupils.
- Further training for staff around the use of Charanga, including those who may be new to the school.
- Investigating using a wider range of songs from different cultures in our times of singing.

