

Music Development Plan

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.

BHSA is an all-through 3-19 academy, consisting of a two-form entry Junior School and a five-form entry Senior School and sixth form in Birkenhead with approximately 1200 pupils. The school serves an increasingly socio-economically diverse community, with 15.76% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium and 17.8% with SEND.

Pupils receive a minimum of one hour of music teaching per week in KS1/ 2 and 3 (aside from Reception, Y1 and Y8). The Model Music Curriculum provides a foundation from which teachers can further develop pupils' love of music by using the National Curriculum guidance to ensure key musical skills and techniques are developed throughout key stages. The Music Express scheme is used in KS1/2 which follows the National Curriculum guidelines. Specialist music teachers give language to music being studied by using the 'indicative musical features'. The school incorporates a diverse range of musical repertoire into the curriculum to ensure pupils listen critically to a diverse range of age-appropriate music. Specific guidance for each year group related to each of the key areas (singing, listening, composing and performing) is also referred to when planning whole-class instrumental lessons, music assemblies, singing assemblies and concert performances.

From KS2, all pupils learn a musical instrument as part of whole-class lessons: year 3 and year 4 learn the recorder, year 5 and year 6 learn the ukulele, year 7 select from a number of instruments, including: the guitar, bass guitar, violin, piano, voice, psax, toot and pcornet, year 8 learn the piano and ukulele, and year 9 select from all of the above and are encouraged to use any additional instruments they play. Different instruments are taught each year to best suit pupils' ages and physical development. Classroom lessons are taught by specialist music teachers.

Weekly music homework is set and the children have their own instruments in some cases, such as their own recorder, and in other lessons instruments can be accessed, such as acoustic guitars and ukuleles. Pupils are introduced to a wide range of live and recorded music from around the world, developing their skills in listening critically. Lessons also include regular opportunities for pupils to create melodic and rhythmic compositions, and cross-curricular links to other subject areas are made where appropriate. Pupils who wish to learn additional orchestral and popular instruments are taught in dedicated music practice rooms by the visiting peripatetic music teachers.

All Junior year groups participate in whole-school singing assemblies each week, delivered by a music specialist. Pupils learn how to sing a range of unison and two-part or three-part songs, expressively and in tune, accompanied by recorded tracks or occasionally by a live pianist. Pupils can also participate in the choir in senior school, as well as being selected to take part in the senior vocal group which is aimed at students who have vocal tuition. There's a junior school recorder group and a choir after-school in the

junior school where pupils learn a range of unison, two- part and three-part songs accompanied by a live pianist. In the senior school, as well as choir/ the senior vocal group, there's a guitar group, folk group, jazz band, instrumental enrichment and a whole-school musical each academic year. Pupils are given opportunities to perform in front of their classmates, during school assemblies and in concerts. There are a number of opportunities for collaborations between junior and senior school students. Students perform every week during whole-school senior assemblies to set the tone for the day, meaning that weekly live performances are a part of the school day.

Pupils across all year groups are able to watch live performances within school, and at external venues, including local and national ensembles. Opportunities are available in the Liverpool Philharmonic annual concerts for mass singing and sign language. These opportunities to witness live music-making complement the experiences of composing and performing during whole-class lessons, and deepen students' understanding of what it means to be a 'rounded musician'. Pupils with SEND access music through inclusive teaching and differentiated tasks where appropriate. Teachers make use of technology to ensure all pupils are able to access, enjoy and participate in music teaching.

How this is achieved

Music is led by music specialists, who are curriculum leaders. Staff use precise guidance for planning, as well as self-assessment sheets to help identify what pupils should know, understand and be able to do. Some school instruments can be loaned to students, with some selecting to buy their own.

Trips, peripatetic lessons and instrumental tuition are paid for by parents and carers, or by the school where the pupil is eligible for Pupil Premium. The Pupil Premium fund helps to pay towards vocal/ instrumental lessons at a reduced rate of 50% (£90 for 30 minute lessons, instead of £180), as well as funding the Liverpool Philharmonic trip every year, attended by junior school students, at a cost of approximately £600. The Pupil Premium fund, as well as the Y7 instrumental scheme which is funded by the GDST, the network of schools that BHSa is a part of, help to provide opportunities for all, including disadvantaged pupils. Parental engagement is secured through regular communication about upcoming assemblies, concerts, videos and weekly homework tasks for music. Parents understand their part in ensuring their child has access to music teaching. For example, parents are reminded of which day music lessons are scheduled on in the junior school's Bugle/ Newsletter in order for them to bring in their instruments.

A close working partnership is in place with St Anselm's College, a local secondary school. Resources are shared, such as teaching resources and instruments are loaned and shared. There's a joint school Jazz Band and shared classroom teaching has taken place in the past, with moderation of coursework between the two centres ongoing. Close links have been formed with local universities, such as LIPA and Liverpool Hope University who regularly invite KS5 students to attend workshops and seminars relating to studying music in further education.

Students of all key stages are given the opportunity to engage in ABRSM / Rock School and Trinity external music examinations. Pupil Premium funding is used to partially fund examinations for disadvantaged students and to purchase resources.

BTEC music is delivered in KS4/5, as well as GCSE and A level music.

Part B: Extra-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 Birkenhead High School Academy, we have a team of excellent peripatetic instrumental and vocal teachers available to teach students on an individual basis, with some lessons available for groups of two or three. Secondary school peripatetic lessons take place on a rota system; this means that students are timetabled at different times each week so that they do not miss the same class lessons. Junior school peripatetic lessons are scheduled so that students do not miss core subjects.

Pupil Premium students are offered music lessons at a reduced rate

Cost of Lessons -

10 x individual half-hour lessons (£18 per lesson) £180

10 x paired half-hour lessons (£9 per lesson) £90

10 x shared half-hour lessons in a 3 (£6 per lesson) £60

Please see below for the lessons we have available -

Pianoforte (individual lessons only/paired lessons at discretion of teachers) Violin/viola/cello (individual/paired lessons at discretion of teachers) Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone (individual/ paired lessons at discretion of teachers)

All brass instruments (individual or paired)

Drum kit (individual or paired)

Singing (individual or paired)

Guitar (individual or paired Bass Guitar (Individual or paired)

Ukulele enrichment is available at a cost of £5 per session in the Junior School.

Guitar and folk group enrichments, as well as ukulele enrichment are also included and funded as part of the extra-curricular music timetable in Seniors.

Pupils can participate in the choir, recorder group and orchestra, as well as the ukulele ensemble in Junior School. In Senior school, students can attend choir, as well as some being selected to take part in the Senior vocal group which is aimed at students who have vocal tuition. There's also a guitar group, folk group, Jazz Band, instrumental enrichment, music theory club and a whole-school musical each academic year.

There are a number of music practice rooms and rehearsal spaces in the Junior and Senior music departments which students can use to rehearse in, as well as for use during peripatetic music lessons. There are also separate specialist music classroom teaching spaces.

Part C: Musical experiences / 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 in assembly takes place in Juniors, as well as Informal Concerts, and Live Lounges, alongside various choir performances in Juniors and Seniors, giving opportunities for the students to play instruments/ sing and engage in concerts.

Pupils engage in many musical events during the year. KS1 pupils perform songs in their annual nativity. All KS2 pupils sing and play their recorders in the Christmas Carol Concert, whilst children taught by peripatetic staff have the opportunity to play ukulele, piano and violin during the concert. A Live lounge concert also gives pupils opportunities to perform on an instrument and voice in an informal setting.

Pupils in Y3 sing and sign songs as part of a massed choir at their annual school trip to the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Key stage two Concerts.

Y5/6 perform a musical at the end of each academic year showcasing their singing ability in unison two and three part harmony.

Two Live Lounges take place per year in the Senior school with a huge focus on collaborative performance, allowing students to accompany each other. The school's enrichment groups, such as the guitar group and string / folk group, as well as the senior vocal group, the Luminelles, also take part. The Jazz Band performs regularly in public performances, as do the Senior vocal group, the Luminelles; for example, performing at local concert venues, charity and community events.

All students are encouraged to take part in the performances and / or to watch the concerts. In senior school, a student performs every week during the whole-school assembly meaning that music permeates through the school throughout the school day. Events such as the Live Lounge, and the annual whole-school musical are charged at a cost of £5 per ticket with donations accepted if parents/ carers are struggling financially.

Peripatetic staff often deliver concerts / performances in Juniors/ Seniors to raise aspirations at no charge to the students. Senior school music students regularly attend concerts at local concert venues/ art galleries, such as the Williamson Art Gallery, which showcases local musicians and includes a range of instruments/ musical genres to expand students' knowledge and understanding of a variety of musical styles.

BHSA is part of a network of schools called the GDST. Annual concerts/ events take place, such as the GDST Sing event at the Royal Academy of Music. Students have also engaged in bi-annual workshops and competitions, such as the GDST Young Musician of the Year.

In the future

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

Plans are in place to engage in more music masterclasses and also to bring Junior pupils over to the Senior Music Department to workshop/ transfer skills to other instruments; e.g. exemplifying how playing the recorder and the skills gained can be transferred to various woodwind instruments, and the same from the ukulele to the guitar.

Plans are in place to continue the live concert series in Junior/ Senior school, as well as plans to continue attending the annual Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra concert.

The opportunity to attend ukulele group has been offered to more year groups in Junior School and a new joint Junior / Senior folk group is to be introduced in September, led by two of our music specialist instrumental teachers.

An informal concert is scheduled in Juniors/ Seniors to enhance opportunities for students to perform in an informal setting, especially as it may be their first concert performance.

BHSA will continue to engage in the annual concerts/ events scheduled by the GDST such as the Sing event at the Royal Academy of Music.

Opportunities for performances in the community will also be taken, such as the Luminelles singing at local care homes and the Jazz Band performing in local festivals etc.

Revised: February 2026

Date of next review: February 2027