

Music development plan summary: Beech Hill School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	02.09.24
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Laura Haigh
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Calderdale Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Beech Hill music is taught weekly by the class teacher. In addition to timetabled music lessons, the children have weekly music assemblies. In these assemblies, high quality recorded music from BBC's 40 pieces for example, is listened to and appraised and the children are given large ensemble singing opportunities. Music is also listened to throughout the school day when appropriate. Teachers select music suggested from the Model Music Curriculum or music that links to their curriculum topics.

Early Years

In early years, music aspects of the children's work are related to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs), as outlined in Development Matters. These underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. Musically, they need to be able to sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs, perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time

with music. From this the Early Years Leader and Music Leader created a progression document and long and medium-term plans for Nursery.

Reception to Year 6

At Beech Hill, the Kapow Music Scheme is used from reception to year 5 as it is a spiral curriculum designed by music specialists which ensures children return to the same skills and knowledge repeatedly, recapping and building on prior knowledge. In addition to this, the Kapow whole class instrumental scheme is used in year 3 for a term to provide the children with the opportunity to learn how to play the glockenspiel. In their final year at Beech Hill, the children have one hour per week of whole class tuition for the clarinet with a music specialist from the Calderdale Music Trust.

The children's musical learning journey is evidenced through videos and a pink floor book and key learning is shared with parents through Seesaw. Pre and post assessments are completed for each unit of the Kapow scheme from years 1-5.

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.

There are many opportunities for the children to develop their cultural capital through music at Beech Hill. There are afterschool and lunchtime clubs such as sing and sign, KS2 choir who take part in Young Voices, nasheed choir and even a 25 piece school orchestra! All afterschool music opportunities are provided free of charge.

As a school, we work closely with a local music charity, 'Music for the Many,' who provide small group music tuition and run the school orchestra free of charge. They also provide instruments for the children to use. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Key Stage 2 children to learn from professional musicians and play in an ensemble. Our children are also given the opportunity to work towards and take ABRSM exams. In 2023/2024, 5 children were awarded grade 1, 4 of which passed with merit!

We also have a lunch time music group for NTE children. This is run by Yorkshire Youth and Music and funded by Calderdale Council as part of their Cultural Fund for 2022-25. The aim of the project is to ensure that new residents in Calderdale who come through the asylum and refugee programme can become part of Calderdale's cultural fabric, can be creative citizens in Calderdale and can share their own cultural heritage to make Calderdale's creative life richer. They also provide small group and 1:1 tuition for children with special educational needs.

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.

The school orchestra performs in school and beyond whenever there is an opportunity. In 2023/2024, they performed multiple times in school to the children and the wider community. They also played at Ravenscliffe High School, the launch of CultureDale at the Crossley Gallery at Dean Clough and at the Halifax Minster's Summer Festival along with the school Nasheed choir.

Children in Key Stage 2 are given the opportunity to be part of Young Voices, the largest school choir in the World! The songs and dance moves are practised at after school choir. The children perform at Sheffield Arena alongside many other schools and internationally renowned musicians!

We grasp any opportunities for the children to attend professional music concerts and to perform with professional musicians. In 2023/2024, our year 4 children worked alongside the English Chamber Orchestra and Three Stones Media in the Little People Big Noise project which culminated in a performance that the year 4 and 6 children attended at the Victoria Theatre. In past years, the children in KS2 have attended the school proms at the Victoria Theatre. The Calderdale Music Trust staff have been in to sing to the children.

Our Year 6 pupils were invited to play at the opening of the Calderdale Music Trust's first conference in July 2024.

In year 6, our children have the opportunity to be part of the leavers' performance. This is a truly spectacular event every year! They sing in unison, in different parts and many of the children also sing solos! In 2023/2024, the children performed Disney's Lion King and in 2022/2023 Beauty and the Beast. They perform to the whole school, to parents and the wider community.

In the future

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

- Introducing ExCathedra's Singing Playgrounds.
- Introduce music in the OPAL scheme.
- Termly music performance for children to showcase key learning from the music curriculum.
- Develop links within the Family of Learning Trust to provide more music opportunities for the children.