

Music development plan summary: The Heights Primary school, 2024-25

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Elena Cook
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Berkshire Maestros Charanga The Music Cube

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 The Heights Primary school, we provide our pupils with the knowledge to develop a purposeful musical understanding. We aim to provide an engaging musical curriculum in which pupils listen, compose, and perform, while gaining knowledge of musical cultures and repertoires.

Music Curriculum

The music curriculum at our school is designed around the use of the Charanga scheme of work which follows the Model Music curriculum (2021) and is connected to our local Music Hub (Berkshire Music Trust/Berkshire Maestros). Teachers select units of work each term which reflect key themes and topics, often around key questions such as: How does music teach us about our community? How does music improve our world? and How does music tell stories of the past?

Each weekly music lesson in Year 1, 2, 4 and 5 lasts one hour in classrooms and follows the structure of: Musicianship, Listening, Singing, Playing and Performing (following the structure suggested in the Model Music Curriculum. Year 3 and Year 6 pupils have a weekly one hour lesson taught by Berkshire Maestro specialist instrument teacher instead (currently ukulele and guitar).

In music lessons, children are explicitly taught the meaning of musical notation. Classroom displays feature posters with these notes so that children can refer to them in lessons, alongside key vocabulary and musical knowledge organisers. Details of this can be found here: [Model Music Curriculum Mapping.pdf](#)

Resources for music are also used through Twinkl Music (which also follows the Model Music Curriculum, 2021). All Charanga lessons have the option to play with wooden glockenspiels, recorders or their voices. The school has a class set of glockenspiels and recorders, as well as a class set of headphones so they can access Charanga and compose using this platform in lessons.

The music curriculum is presented through a visual 'Journey of the Child' which shows when various learning takes place across the year: [Music - Journey of the child document.pdf](#)

The music curriculum also includes area Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development for pupils:

[Music and SMSC.docx.pdf](#)

SEND and the music curriculum

Pupils with a Special Education Need or Disability might benefit from provision to access their music learning, as stated in the Equality Act 2010 and Children and Families Act 2014. The use of resources, such as ear defenders, might be supportive for pupils who can find loud noise overstimulating.

Charanga also have a SEND scheme of work for any pupils who cannot access whole class lessons, if needed: [About The Scheme - Anyone Can Play.pdf](#)

The school also has a music therapist who works directly with some of our children who are functioning on the engagement model or pre-key stage standards.

Part B: Music Tuition, Choirs and Ensembles

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.

The Heights Primary school has several spaces where pupils can engage in musical learning:

- a music room with a piano and percussion sets

- an activity studio
- the main school hall
- two intervention rooms

All classrooms are also available to use for whole class music lessons and the choir club rehearsals at lunch time.

Music Tuition

Three days a week, 1:1 Piano lessons are held by a music teacher from 9am-3.30pm in our music room (Angie Tse from Allegro Piano Studio). These are paid privately by parents. She teaches pupils across Key Stage 1 and 2.

One day a week, a teacher from Berkshire Maestros (our local Music hub) runs guitar lessons in our dedicated Music Room. These are paid privately by parents. They teach pupils across Key Stage 1 and 2.

School choir

In previous years, the choir has the opportunity to perform at the school Christmas and Summer Fayres, as well as in whole school or key stage assemblies. The choir has previously been a part of 'Young Voices' and performed at the yearly concert at the O2 arena in London; parents and staff members accompany the pupils, as well as other peers in the audience.

Currently, the school is organising a member of staff to lead this year's choir (to be confirmed). The school is also not participating in the Young Voices event this year.

Instrument Loans

Our Year 3 and Year 6 pupils have instruments loaned by Berkshire Maestros (our local Music hub) so they can practise their musical learning at home. At the start of the academic year, parents are asked to pay towards the cost of instrument hire for the year and in-school lessons. Year 3 pupils have hired violins and ukuleles over the past 5 years. Year 6 pupils have hired guitars.

In previous years, there has also been the opportunity for the Year 3 and Year 6 pupils to complete an Arts Award (through In2Music project).

Funding

In 2022, an application was made to Universal Music UK Sound Foundation for 'UMUKSF School awards'. The application was successful and a grant was provided towards the cost of musical resources. These resources were: a class pack of headphones to allow pupils to use Chromebooks to compose digitally via the Charanga sites and access Charanga lessons individually; additional beaters to allow whole class use of glockenspiels in lessons; a percussion rhyme set to develop Early Years and KS1 music understanding; and a multicultural instrument basket to develop our pupils' cultural capital and awareness of other musical cultures in different continents.

Part C: Musical events

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.

At The Heights Primary, we recognise the importance of attending musical events across the year. The buzz and atmosphere of live music is hugely important to pupils' personal development. We have many regular events in our school calendar, as well as specific organised events added year-on-year.

Each year, Key Stage 2 attends the Christmas Pantomime musical by Imagine Theatre at our local theatre, The Hexagon. This is made accessible to all children, including those who may need additional resources or support, such as ear defenders. Key Stage 1 children enjoy a Pantomime by M&M Productions in our main school hall. These are highly anticipated events. The usual cost of this is communicated to parents and KS2 Pantomime costs were £12 per pupil last year (including coach travel)

Each year, performance assemblies are arranged in the Autumn and Summer term by Will Davey and his pupils each year to celebrate their learning and perform to their peers and parents. Will Davey is the founder of 'The Music Cube' which runs music lessons and teaches a variety of instruments (piano, keyboard, drums and guitars), which several of our pupils attend privately.

At Christmas, there are a variety of musical events. Year 1 and 2 perform a Nativity. Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 perform a concert of musical songs. These performances are attended by other year groups, parents and the local community. At the end of the academic year, Year 6 pupils perform a musical which is highly anticipated. Musicals performed include Oliver!, Beauty and the Beast and the Lion King. Pupils perform in a variety of solo, group and ensemble roles.

Our Year 3 and Year 6 pupils also have a performance concert each year in the Summer term for their parents (also open to other year groups to attend as audience). This is organised by the Berkshire Maestros teacher (from local music hub). All pupils in Year 3 play the ukulele and Year 6 play the guitar to their audience, including playing well-known music from different genres and their own compositions from lessons.

Alongside these yearly musical events, there are also stand-alone events planned. For example, since 2023, we have held a whole school folk festival event to celebrate Arts week. Each year group (from Reception up to Y6) performed different international folk songs including: Brown Bear; She'll be coming round the mountain; One more step along the world I go; Frere Jacques; The Parting Glass; Awkward Annie; Wellerman; Old Joe Clark; It's a Long Way to Tipperary; Shoshaloza.

In the future

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

The Department for Education note 7 features of high-quality music provision (much of which is evidenced in The Heights Primary school's school music development plan):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 and 2
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

In the future, for The Heights Primary, we aim to focus on increasing the amount of school performances to both our pupil and parent community using our assembly slots. We plan to have at least one further musical assembly each term (Autumn, Spring and Summer). Another area to develop in the future is increased opportunities for singing, with the possible introduction of daily songs in classrooms and weekly singing in whole school assemblies.

We also aim to increase opportunities for pupils to enjoy live performances. The Christmas Pantomime and Young Voices O2 performances are highlights of the school calendar. We plan to look at other performances in the local area to signpost for our school community to attend or explore.

We will look at networking with other schools in our multi-academy trust (Bellevue Place Educational Trust) to share our music curriculum and experiences.

Finally, we aim to continue to expand our bank of resources for pupils to access their learning in the future, particularly looking into a further class set of instruments, alongside our wooden glockenspiels.

Further information (optional)

The Heights Primary local music hub: [Homepage - Berkshire Music Trust \(berksmusictrust.org.uk\)](http://berksmusictrust.org.uk)

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.

Young Voices: [Frontpage | Young Voices](#)