

Music development plan summary: Balksbury Federation

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emily Smith and Abigail Earle
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Katy Thompson
Name of local music hub	Hampshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	John Hanson Secondary School Test Valley Community Brass Band

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 Balksbury Federation, our music curriculum embodies the National Curriculum and Balksbury Federation Curriculum Model and is designed to foster creativity, self-expression, and self-confidence in children while instilling a lifelong appreciation for music. Our curriculum planning is based on the Kapow Music framework, aligned with the Department for Education's 2020 Model Music Curriculum and embeds our knowledge-engaged curriculum which is built up of four core Key Stones; Key Stone 1 Engagement, Key Stone 2 Developing Knowledge and Skills, Key Stone 3 Innovation and Key Stone 4 Expression. This provides 'rich and varied learning experiences and ensures all children make progress from their relative starting points developing knowledge and skills to be successful as they move through their journey from Year R to Year 6'. Our music

curriculum supports all children including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by offering differentiated activities and resources, along with the provision of sensory aids.

Children at Balksbury participate in a one-hour music lesson each week, where they explore a diverse range of historical periods, genres, styles, and traditions. These lessons encourage children to develop essential skills in listening, performing, reviewing, and evaluating music. Music theory is integrated throughout the curriculum, enhancing children's understanding of key concepts such as pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, and musical notation. At Balksbury, we believe it is essential to expose our children to a diverse range of percussion instruments, including those from around the world, such as African drums and Chinese bells. We also encourage children to utilise their growing knowledge of musical notation and apply it to various tuned instruments, such as glockenspiels, keyboards, steel drums, and tuned bells.

In our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), in addition to structured music lessons, children engage in daily practice of learning and performing nursery rhymes and songs. Throughout EYFS, there are many opportunities for children to explore musical instruments in continuous provision, including a dedicated music wall in the outdoor area.

All our children participate in a weekly Singing Assembly, which includes vocal warm-ups and singing techniques. As our children enter school assemblies, they are introduced to a piece of traditional or modern music from various nationalities and languages which celebrates and reflects our diverse federated community. This exposure ensures that our children develop their understanding of global cultures and music from around the world.

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.

Balksbury Federation offers many opportunities for our children to sing and play music outside of lesson time. Our federation offers a weekly Singing Club that runs which spans from Year R to Year 6, focusing on essential singing skills, such as pitch, tone, and duration, while providing opportunities for collaborative music creation. The musical pieces developed in this club are performed at significant school community events. For example, our Intergenerational Café and our Christmas Fayre. Additionally, the singing club collaborates closely with our feeder secondary school to produce an interschool Christmas carol service.

To further strengthen our relationship with our feeder secondary school, Our Year 5 children participate in an additional lesson at the secondary school, where they learn how to use the musical technology suite. In this session, the children explore composing

music and layering it over film to enhance cinematography with effect and atmosphere. They also discover how background music can create tension and mood in storytelling and acting.

Our Year 3 and 4 children receive an extra annual inspirational lesson with Test Valley Brass to explore and learn about brass instruments. During this session, the children are taught how to look after and play a brass instrument. The children also get to experience the sound of a small band performing a piece of music collaboratively.

At our Federation, we recognise the importance of musical expression, which is why we have created an outdoor musical instrument area featuring glockenspiels, drums, and a Batonka. Children are encouraged to explore this space during playtime and lunchtime. Additionally, we provide the children with outdoor music (through a boombox) during playtime, which plays a selection of music chosen by the children, allowing them to sing, dance and express themselves with their peers.

Our KS2 children benefit from an optional 1:1 tuition from Test Valley Brass, who offer lessons once a week during school time.

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.

Balksbury Federation's curriculum model's four essential Key Stones. Key Stone 4, Expression, empowers children to showcase and apply the knowledge and skills they've developed throughout their learning journey in diverse ways. During this time, children compose, create, and perform a short musical piece that reflects the genre or musical theory they've explored during that term. These performances are presented to their peers, filmed for sharing with other year groups, and select performances are also shared with parents, celebrating the children's creativity and progress.

Our federation hosts a variety of significant musical performances throughout the academic year. At Christmas, the Early Years Foundation Stage presents a Nativity play, and the entire school participates in a carol service at a local church. During Easter, our Year 1 children perform a musical production, followed by the Year 2s end-of-year show at the conclusion of Key Stage 1. In the summer, Year 6 showcases their end-of-year musical production. These performances are shared with the entire federated community and parents, and our EYFS Nativity also welcomes a few local nurseries to join in the experience.

Each year group enjoys an annual lesson with a local theatre company that teaches drama through storytelling, music, and dance. Additionally, the children have the opportunity to watch a live performance by this company at Christmas time.

The children in Singing Club will also participate in an interschool Christmas carol service hosted by our local secondary school, which will be presented to families from both

schools. Additionally, our Cheerleading and Dance club immerses children in a diverse range of musical genres, encouraging them to move in rhythm and express themselves creatively through dance.

Balksbury Federation alternates between an annual STEM Fayre and an Arts Festival in celebration of the end of an academic year. These events provide children with a variety of creative opportunities to engage with music. For instance, during our recent STEM Fayre, students crafted musical instruments from bananas using the device 'Makey Makey'. During our Arts Festival, we design musical experiences that enable our children to acquire new skills. Whether it's learning to play boom whackers, composing music on an iPad, or crafting their own instruments through junk modelling, every activity is designed to celebrate music and creativity. At Balksbury, we wholeheartedly encourage our children to express themselves through music.

In the future

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

Before COVID-19 pandemic, our school provided one-on-one music tuition for both guitar and piano. Unfortunately, both music instructors were unable to continue with these lessons post Covid, and we have encountered challenges in finding replacements in our local area, due to availability during school hours and the associated costs for parents. Additionally, our partnership with Hampshire Music Service is ongoing as we work towards establishing a mutually agreed cost for individualised music tuition. Balksbury Federation recognises that these barriers may necessitate subsidising some of these costs to make them more affordable for our families, and we are developing a strategic financial plan to facilitate this.

Further future plans include:

- Continuing to strengthen our partnership with our feeder secondary school and plan additional opportunities for further year groups to utilise their musical technology suite, allowing our children to apply their composition skills in new and exciting ways.