

Music development plan summary: Halewood CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr I Pinkerton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr D Catt
Name of local music hub	Knowsley
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Liverpool Cathedrale Choir

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.

In Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), our primary focus is on singing and rhythm. Children are introduced to musical instruments during some music lessons and in continuous provision activities, fostering a love for music from a young age. Each week includes a brief, focused music session that gradually increases in length over the year. Singing is woven throughout the school day, often connected to learning activities such as singing number rhymes, which supports memory and language skills.

Our EYFS pupils are taught to listen attentively, respond to music through movement, express their feelings about music, and begin singing alone or in groups with growing confidence, matching pitch and following melodies. They also engage in music-making and dance, performing both solo and in groups.

Across Key Stages 1 and 2 (KS1 and KS2), we deliver all aspects of the National Curriculum for music, adhering closely to the guidance from the Model Music Curriculum. Our music curriculum is taught on alternate half-terms (3 half-terms per year), with each session lasting at least one hour. This includes a dedicated 60-minute weekly music lesson. In addition, students encounter music daily, both during whole

school collective worship and through corridor speakers, reinforcing an inclusive, music-rich environment.

Each music lesson across EYFS, KS1, and KS2 emphasizes singing and includes listening and appraising activities. Lessons in EYFS and KS1 focus specifically on rhythm and beat, with structured opportunities to develop musicianship. Depending on the unit, lessons may also focus on instrumental play (including formal music notation, especially in KS2), improvisation, or composition, often blending these elements. We incorporate music technology, especially using GarageBand on iPads, to support creativity and engagement, particularly in KS2.

In KS2, there is a balanced approach to playing, improvising, and composing throughout the year. While some units may emphasize one element over others, we ensure a holistic approach to music education. In KS1, there is a stronger emphasis on developing core musicianship skills—pulse, beat, rhythm, and pitch—in alignment with the Model Music Curriculum, while still fostering basic skills in improvisation and composition. These elements will continue to be a development focus.

Our Music Medium-Term Plans (available on our school website) outline how music is taught across each year group, ensuring that students engage in age-appropriate singing, listening, performing, reading notation, using music technology, improvising, and composing. Where possible, we connect these lessons to our half-termly themes, particularly through singing and listening activities. Our curriculum follows the recommendations set out in the 2014 Model Music Curriculum, ensuring a consistent, high-quality experience for all students.

Our curriculum explores music from diverse cultures, including Chinese music, Samba from Brazil, African music, and Caribbean music. We are committed to further expanding this aspect of our music program to foster cultural awareness and appreciation.

Singing is a strength within our school community. Students sing not only in music lessons but also during worship and special concerts. We incorporate a variety of songs recommended by the Model Music Curriculum, such as rounds in Years 3 and 4, gradually expanding the vocal range as students progress. A wide range and bank of song videos support non-music specialists in delivering singing, while 'Out of the Ark' and 'Fischy Music' enrich worship experiences.

Our partnership with the Liverpool Cathedral Schools' Singing Program provides weekly singing lessons for Year 3 and 4 students, enhancing their musicianship and performance skills. Year 3 students work on dynamics, phrasing, and articulation, performing at the Cathedral's 'Big Sing.' Year 4 students build on these skills, with a focus on breath control and working in the upper register, laying a strong foundation in musicality and performance.

We use the Charanga music scheme to support whole-class instrumental teaching, supplemented by resources such as BBC 10 Pieces and BBC Radio, which connect music to wider curriculum topics.

All students, including those receiving Pupil Premium and those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), fully engage in our music curriculum. Every child has access to an iPad and a GarageBand account, allowing them to record and produce their own music as part of our music curriculum.

By providing a broad, inclusive music program, we aim to instil a lifelong love for music in all our students.

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.

At Halewood C of E, all our pupils sing confidently and tunefully as part of worship. They sing to live music, accompanied by guitar, piano, and other instruments, or to high-quality backing tracks. Children actively participate in worship, not only through singing but also by playing percussion instruments, adding rhythm and energy to our collective worship experience.

We have a dedicated singing group and choir led by members of our school staff. The choir meets weekly to practice, developing vocal skills, teamwork, and performance confidence. Choir members have multiple opportunities to perform throughout the year, including concerts, school events, and services in our church. They also contribute to the local community by performing at events such as the Halewood Town Council Christmas lights switch-on and at nearby nursing homes, bringing joy to audiences of all ages.

Our choir also extends its outreach by performing at local venues, such as hospitals and supermarkets, allowing pupils to experience the power of music in diverse settings and build connections within the community.

Each year, all pupils participate in a Christmas nativity production, which is a highlight of our seasonal celebrations. In addition, our Year 6 pupils take part in an end-of-year musical production, showcasing their talents in singing, acting, and sometimes dance, marking an important milestone in their school journey.

While we do not currently have a school orchestra, this is a future goal for our music program, as we strive to provide even more avenues for our pupils to develop instrumental skills and ensemble experience.

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.

Every week, our school speaker system plays a curated piece of music that students hear as they move around the school. Each selection is accompanied by information about the piece, exposing students to a wide variety of musical styles, cultures, and historical periods.

All pupils have the opportunity to experience live music both within and outside of school. Weekly collective worships often feature live music, and at Christmas, children join in singing alongside a live band. During our Christmas and Summer Fayres, students are encouraged to showcase their talents in musical performances, creating joyful and memorable experiences for the school community.

We also invite guest musicians to perform live music for our students. This includes local worship bands who bring live music into our worship sessions.

The Liverpool Cathedral Choir, which visits half-termly to share live singing performances, providing an inspiring experience for our pupils.

In addition to these live experiences, we enhance musical learning through technology, especially in KS2, where students use GarageBand to create and explore music.

Field trips play a key role in our music curriculum, including visits to live orchestral performances and theatre productions with live musical elements. These experiences help broaden students' understanding and appreciation of the performing arts.

Our PE curriculum also incorporates the expressive potential of music through dance. Students learn a variety of dance styles, from contemporary Street Dance to traditional Lancashire clog dancing, fostering an appreciation for different musical and cultural backgrounds.

While there is a charge for external visits, such as theatre trips or concerts, Pupil Premium children can access these enriching experiences at no cost, ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to benefit from the cultural and educational value of live performances.

In the future

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

Music education is a valued part of our school's budget. Additionally, we plan to host fundraising activities, such as concerts, to help sustain and expand our music program. Friends of the school are encouraged to support these efforts, contributing to a vibrant music culture at Halewood C of E School.

We are planning to enhance our music program by offering whole-class instrument tuition through the Knowsley Music Partnership. To fund this initiative, we aim to raise money through school concerts, community projects, and additional support from our local community. These funds will allow all pupils to experience hands-on instrumental learning, enriching their musical education.

Previously, pupils could participate in after-school guitar and ukulele lessons provided by an external tutor. However, these sessions were discontinued due to the tutor's career change. We are actively seeking a new instructor to continue offering these valuable lessons, which have been popular and beneficial for many of our students.

We are committed to strengthening our connections with local high schools to create more opportunities for our pupils to engage with live music. Through these partnerships, we aim to provide all students with at least one opportunity—if not more—to visit a concert hall and experience a live orchestral performance. We will also explore additional opportunities to bring professional musicians into our school, allowing students to experience high-quality live music firsthand.

Our music technology curriculum will be enhanced through the use of GarageBand, maximizing the benefits of our one-to-one iPad program. By integrating music technology more fully, we aim to engage students in creative music-making and develop their skills in recording, editing, and producing music.

Improving the teaching of composition is a key priority, especially in KS2, where students will have opportunities to compose using music technology. By fostering creativity and expression, we hope to inspire students to create their own musical works and deepen their understanding of music theory and structure.

Another area for development is the assessment and tracking of pupil progress in music. We aim to establish a more robust system for assessing students' musical skills and achievements, ensuring that each child's progress is recorded and celebrated as they grow.

In the future, we aspire to start a school orchestra, creating an ensemble that brings students together to learn and perform as a group. This initiative would allow pupils to develop their instrumental skills and work collaboratively, further enriching our school's music program.

Further information

We have a number of staff who are music specialists and we encourage children who are talented musicians to take up lessons. On-going communication with parents and feedback about music achievement and progress are key to ensuring talent is recognised and nurtured both in and out of school.