

Music development plan summary: Arbury Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	May 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Amy Shearer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kate Dowdall
Name of local music hub	Cambridgeshire Music Hub

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.

- As a school we use the Music Express scheme which is informed by the Music Model Curriculum.
- Children begin learning rhythmic and melodic percussive instruments in EYFS and KS1, including glockenspiels.
- In Year 3, children begin learning the recorder using Music Express instrumental resources (Recorder Magic). Throughout their time in Year 3 and 4 the learning of recorders is included in music lessons, usually taught in blocks of 3 weeks, at least termly. Our curriculum map for music gives a clear timetable for when recorders are to be taught.
- In Years 5 and 6 children learn to play the ukulele. Again, this instrumental teaching is done in 3 week blocks at least termly and the timetable for teaching ukuleles is mapped out clearly on the music curriculum overview
- The Music Express units are mapped out clearly on the music curriculum overview. Units follow a spiral planning model – each unit will include: singing, musicianship, listening and appraising, playing, composing and improvising.
- Children receive 45 minutes of Music Lesson time a week and additionally have a weekly 15-minute singing assembly. In all assemblies, the children practise the songs introduced in the Singing Assembly.
- As well as the weekly music lesson and singing assembly, every year group takes part in a yearly musical production which is of a very high quality.
- The Music Curriculum and provision is available for parents, governors etc to see on the school website.
- We access training and resources from our local music hub.

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.

- We run a variety of clubs for children in our school so that they have opportunities to sing and play instruments outside of lesson time. All of our clubs are free to ensure that every child has the same access and opportunity. Clubs and opportunities change on a regular basis meaning that through their time at school there are lots of different ways that children can access extra-curricular music.
- This year the music lead ran a small group brass tuition for Year 6 during the Autumn and Spring terms. The children who accessed the club were able to borrow an instrument on loan for the duration. They completed the club by performing to the school in a special music assembly.
- KS2 choir is available to all children from Year 4 upwards and is a free club. They meet weekly on a Monday after school, they get to take part in a variety of performances both in and outside of school. This has included performing at the local Christmas lights switch on and an upcoming performance to the local community at the Arbury Carnival.
- Our Year 5 children have the opportunity to attend a weekly Samba band club in the Summer Term which culminates in an end of year performance to the rest of the school and their parents.
- During the Spring term, KS1 children had the opportunity to attend a weekly lunchtime singing club and this culminated in a performance in a special music assembly.
- All music clubs are free of charge.

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.

- All children partake in a weekly singing assembly. During these assemblies, the children learn new songs which are then practised and sung in other assemblies throughout the week.
- Each year, every year group works towards a production with singing being a strong element.
- Each extra-curricular music club works towards a performance with parents/carers invited, either within school or in the local community.
- In the past, KS2 have had performances from the Touring Opera where children are participating and watching professional musicians.
- EYFS, KS1 and Year 3 had a visit from the Britten Sinfonia 'Tiny Magic Orchestra'. The children watched the musicians play a variety of instruments and joined in with rhythmic body percussion.
- In June, a professional folk band, Megson, will be visiting the school for a live performance to all the children.
- The whole-school has opportunity to watch live performances from local musicians.
- All live musical performances are free of charge to the children watching.
- In November 2025, Year 4 will be partaking in a celebration at the Cambridge Corn Exchange for its anniversary.

In the future

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

- In future years we would like to develop our curriculum by evaluating and implementing our new scheme, Music Express.
- We would like to explore further ways for children to showcase their learning from their curriculum music lessons in Music Assemblies.
- We are looking to develop our partnership with Cambridgeshire Music Hub for CPD opportunities for teachers teaching music.
- Expand opportunities for performance opportunities for our children within our local community.
- We are planning to increase the number of opportunities for children to hear live music performed in school by outside musicians.