

Music Development Plan Summary: Leckhampton C of E Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Spring 2027
Name of the school music lead	Xanthe Dobbs
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Gloucestershire 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.

The Leckhampton music curriculum is designed to ensure that our children are singing, performing, listening, composing and improvising frequently throughout each school term. It enables the children to build on their confidence throughout the Key Stages when using, interpreting and developing their knowledge and understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music. The substantive knowledge of the music curriculum focuses on developing the children's skills and knowledge required for them to grow as musicians. The disciplinary knowledge of the music curriculum focuses on the children interpreting the interrelated dimensions of music and knowing how this knowledge can be applied when singing, performing, improvising and composing.

Our music curriculum teaches the elements of music with a clear progression across the school. Reception children follow the guidance of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Development Matters. In Reception, music is integrated through singing, rhythm, movement and play based exploration, helping children develop listening skills, co-ordination and emotional expression. Throughout Key Stages 1 and 2 at

Leckhampton we follow the English Model Music Curriculum using the Charanga scheme which focuses on the strands of singing, composing, listening and performing. Music is taught for an hour a week and in addition to support other curriculum areas. Whole class lessons are taught for 10 weeks in Year 2 by Gloucestershire music and whole class Music Works is taught for 10 weeks in Year 6. This involves professionals who come to teach, model and share their skill set with the children, enabling them to progressively apply the skills they have learnt to performing.

National Curriculum

Our curriculum is accessible to all and based on the National Curriculum objectives. Our aim is to inspire a life-long love of music, nurture individual talents and provide opportunities for all pupils to engage in musical experiences both within and beyond the classroom. Teachers tailor lessons to meet pupils' individual needs where appropriate, ensuring every child, regardless of ability, can participate fully and meaningfully.

The National Curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.
- By the end of each key stage, pupils are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant programme of study.

Key Stage 1

Pupils should be taught to:

- use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes
- play tuned and untuned instruments musically
- listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music
- experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Key Stage 2

Pupils should be taught to:

sing and play musically with increasing confidence and control. They should develop an understanding of musical composition, organising and manipulating ideas within musical structures and reproducing sounds from aural memory.

Pupils should be taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory
- use and understand staff and other musical notations
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians
- develop an understanding of the history of music

Music Strategies

At Leckhampton, we have three music strategies which are interwoven through the music curriculum and wider subjects, which support a culture of musicianship and performance:

1 Performance Strategy

We believe that performing in front of an audience can develop children's confidence, independence, oracy skills and overall self-expression. Throughout the Key Stages, our pupils are given ample opportunities to perform in different settings. Our Singing Strategy, alongside the Charanga scheme, provides the children with regular classroom time to celebrate, experience and share the songs they have learned during a lesson. Children are encouraged to explore instruments throughout Key Stage 1 and perform using these wherever possible. From Year 2, children begin developing these performance skills through the use of a tuned instrument; recorders are introduced and learnt material is performed using these. Performance skills are further strengthened throughout Key stage 2 as more notes are learnt on the recorders and a range of genres are covered in singing. Within our Listening Strategy, children will watch live performances of different artists and genres to develop their understanding of stage presence and a variety of performers.

2 Listening Strategy

We follow the Listening strategy throughout the year. We believe in the importance of exposing our pupils to a broad range of musical styles to acquire and develop their aural knowledge and musical understanding. We offer pupils the opportunity to listen critically and explore how music sits within their wider community, with a maturing awareness of 'cultural capital'. From KS1 pupils will be introduced to a wide range of Western Classical Music, Popular Music and Traditional Music from around the world with a focus on our rich and diverse modern British identity. We encourage our pupils to be open minded in their listening, to discuss openly and form opinions about the breadth of musical genres in the world today. Our pupils will not only expand their musical horizons as they pass through the Key Stages but will also develop a deeper understanding of the impact music can have on the listener.

3 Singing strategy

We believe that singing is inclusive and transcends all economical and academic boundaries, with huge benefits on mental and physical wellbeing. Therefore, singing is at the heart of every music lesson, with pupils appreciating that singing is whole heartedly accepted and engraved in our school culture. Alongside our Listening Strategy, children enhance their ability to listen carefully and develop a sense of pitch, allowing them to sing in harmony and with musical delivery by the end of Year 6. Teachers consistently use the principles outlined below in every singing lesson to support children in developing vocal production. Children learn to sing a wide range of styles throughout the Key Stages that will give them the opportunity to develop their vocal potential, love of music and refine their individual taste.

The details of our school curriculum for music can be found on our website at:

<https://leckhampton.gloucs.sch.uk/about-our-school/curriculum/>

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.

We offer individual and small group tuition for a variety of instruments. These lessons provide one to one focussed teaching by a peripatetic specialist. These lessons are available to pupils from Year 3.

Music tuition:

Drums

Piano

Woodwind

Guitar

Strings

Brass

Performances are offered with peripatetic teachers – Key Stage 2.

Choir

Our long-established choir club meets in the Autumn term which enables staff to teach an exciting range of songs which will then be sung at the eagerly anticipated Cheltenham Rotary Concert at Christmas which is open to parents and the public.

Junior Choir – Year 2 to Year 5 (70 pupils)

Year 6 Choir (30 pupils)

Whole class ensemble tuition (WCET) Year 2 – This is whole class music teaching taught by musical experts, providing high class music teaching and learning a new instrument for 10 weeks.

WCET instrument hire when pupils are receiving whole class instrument lessons, they are eligible for instrument hire through Gloucestershire Music to enable them to facilitate home learning and enable them to join an ensemble. We are hoping to offer this to another year group in KS2 next year.

Year 6 – Whole class Music Works. 10 weeks of composing digital music using garage band with musicians.

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.

In addition to planned curricular music, children also have additional music experiences. There are regular performing opportunities for our children across the school. These include in-class performances, instrumental ensemble concerts attended by key stages, recorded performances which are then posted on Class Dojo for parents, EYFS Christmas carols performed to parents, Year 1 nativity, year 2 carol singing to care homes, Year 3 production to whole school and families, year 6 end of year production to the whole school and families and the leaver's service where year 6 children sing as part of their choir.

Year group performances

EYFS – Christmas carols to parents

Year 1- Nativity

Year 2 – Christmas carols at a care home

Year 3 – Summer production

Year 6 – End of year production

We aim to continue to build on these opportunities to embed stagecraft and musicianship to support our strategies and curriculum, whilst performing and sharing with the outer community.

House Music

This is an event where children get to perform within their houses as part of a group performance and take part in a competition between their 6 houses within school. All children are given the opportunity to send in virtual performances to share and celebrate their musician skills within their year groups and the children perform and decide

their year group winners. KS2 children in each house choose a song to rehearse, choreograph and perform in a whole school house music competition at the end of the Spring term. They rehearse as an after school club and the house captains lead these rehearsal alongside head of houses and teachers. There are 6 house performances with a panel of in-house judges. The children embed all of their performance skills, musicianship and stage craft in a well-loved school event that has been going on for many years.

Young Voices

KS1 and KS2 have the opportunity to be part of Young Voices, which is a popular UK program that gets primary school students excited about singing and music. It culminates with us attending a concert at The Resorts World Arena Birmingham, where thousands of children aged 7 to 11 come together to perform as a choir, with an audience of parents. They learn a mix of songs, including popular hits and original pieces, often alongside professional musicians and guest artists. This experience helps our children improve their singing skills, build confidence, and make new friends, and is open to all our Year 5/6 children, regardless of ability.

Music is incorporated into a variety of activities and events within school, such as weekly worships, singing assemblies, classroom routines and special celebrations and class worships. At Leckhampton, Worships are an opportunity for children to listen to a wide variety of music from all over the world, across all generations, cultures and traditions.

In the future

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

Improve staff confidence within music teaching by providing further CPD for classroom teachers to increase their confidence in delivering the curriculum and teaching improvisation and composition in the classroom.

Ensure inclusivity for all children by ensuring provision is adapted and suited for each class and their individual needs. Monitor the engagement of pupil premium children engaged in extra- curricular music activities to ensure that music is accessible for all.

Provide an additional year group with the opportunity to learn another musical instrument through whole class ensemble tuition. This will enable them to apply their skills and perform using another musical instrument.

Provide more opportunities for expert musicians to share their knowledge, perform and inspire the children.

Continue to embed the importance of music within the culture and values of the school through the opportunities and provision. Inspire a love of music by nurturing individual talents and providing opportunities for all pupils to engage in a variety of musical experiences.