

Music development plan summary: Elmlea Infants and Junior Schools Draft

2025/26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kath Sadler
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Becca Hine
Name of local music hub	Bristol Beacon
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

We have our own music curriculum, starting in EYFS through to year 6, based on Bristol Music Curriculum.

All [National Curriculum requirements](#) are met through this scheme.

Here is the [music curriculum map](#)

Music lessons are taught by a music specialist in the junior school and by the class teachers in the infant school. Lessons are 40 mins long. There is also a 20-minute singing assembly in both schools each week.

We use Minute of Listening, Sing Up websites, Oak Academy curriculum and the GarageBand app in addition to Bristol Music Curriculum resources.

Instruments: we have a good range of pitched and unpitched musical instruments in both schools. Also, a class set of djembes. There are some instruments for hiring out such as violins, violas and cellos.

Assessment is built into the curriculum, e.g. skills and knowledge the children will acquire in each project and the progress they will make year on year. Formative assessment is by informal observation, pupil questioning, modelling and targeted verbal feedback. Videos and recordings are taken of class work to aid with assessment. Summative assessment is only used to inform future planning (see [here](#) for the HMI speaking about assessment of Music)

In the infant school the impact assessment depends on the confidence and skills of the class teacher delivering the lesson. In the junior school assessment is more consistent, as a music specialist plans and leads these lessons.

Whole Class Ensemble Tuition

WCET (whole class ensemble tuition) in years 2 and 3 are led by Bristol Beacon (hub) tutors. The instruments are provided and maintained by Bristol Beacon. The learning is supported by the class teacher, who takes part in the lessons alongside the children. There is an option to continue with tuition by joining a club or paying for individual or group lessons on an instrument.

Singing

Children sing weekly in singing assemblies and at the beginning or end of other assemblies. They sing as part of music lessons and in preparation for events such as year group productions. Teachers sing in class and in singing assemblies. We have three non-auditioned choir (clubs): infant choir, junior choir and boys choir, this last one conducted by male choir leader. Standards in singing are not assessed formally apart from as part of assessment in music lessons.

Instrumental music

Children play percussion instruments as part of their weekly music lessons, depending on the topic. E.g. year 6 play djembe drums, year 5 play percussion instruments as part of their samba project. Classroom instruments are used to accompany songs.

Pitched and unpitched percussion instruments are available for classroom use. Instrumentalists are sometimes invited to bring in their instruments to use in the classroom. Each year group project builds upon the last, for example simple rhythms taught in year 3 rhythm project, more complex polyrhythms taught in year 6 djembe project. Assessment is formative, through teacher observation and feedback.

Technology

Software: GarageBand and Chrome Music Lab. Hardware used: iPads/computers. Year 6 Composition Project/Year 2 Digital Music project. These projects enable children to work individually, composing at their own level using pre-existing loops. Outcomes are assessed through teacher observation and feedback.

Opportunities to experience live music performance

Children hear live music performed by other children, teachers, and musicians invited to play in assembly. The music lead arranges workshops/demonstrations and speakers to singing assemblies. Choir and orchestra club listen to musicians as part of their performances and workshops at Bristol Beacon. This is funded through the music budget or the school fund.

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.

Our policy is for music activities to be available to all who express an interest.

The clubs are as follows: infant choir and junior choir led by the music lead and non-fee-paying. Junior orchestra, String orchestra, boys choir, guitar and ukulele clubs: led by specialist tutors and paid for by parents.

All clubs give children the experience of playing or singing in a group and provide extra challenge for those children who play an instrument or receive singing tuition.

Singing

Weekly singing assemblies are led by two teachers.

They are mainly accompanied by backing tracks and occasionally, piano.

Infant choir, junior choir and boys' choirs are available in school. The first two are after school clubs, the boys' choir is during the school day.

The music lead leads infant choir and junior choir. A specialist tutor leads boys' choir.

Children and their parents are invited to sign up at the beginning of the year.

Singing is assessed through observation and feedback.

Ensembles

The clubs are as follows: infant choir and junior choir led by the music lead and non-fee-paying. School Orchestra, String orchestra, boys' choir, guitar and ukulele clubs are led by specialist tutors and paid for by parents. All clubs take place in school. Both orchestras take place before school, guitar and ukulele clubs at lunchtime, boys choir during the school day. Other music clubs are after school.

Children are invited to join via the newsletter and assemblies and identified in music lessons. Progress is assessed through observation and feedback.

Tuition

Instruments taught in school: violin, viola, cello, trumpet/cornet, euphonium, clarinet, bassoon, flute, saxophone, keyboard/piano, singing, kit drums, guitar, ukulele.

These teachers are mostly engaged through membership of the Bristol Music School (Bristol Beacon music hub), except for the guitar teacher who is a private tutor.

Take-up: total number of instrumentalists = 109 pupils taking lessons in school, 47 boys and 62 girls.

Tuition is promoted through the newsletter and in assemblies and music lessons.

Lessons are not assessed through the school, but the lead music teacher overviews teaching and engagement.

Outcomes: Children learning an instrument or taking part in choir have noticeably increased positive self-esteem and engagement. This is especially noticeable in boys' choir.

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.

- Junior choir performs at a prestigious venue (Bristol Beacon) twice a year.
- Infant choir take part in massed sings at Bristol Beacon and the Spiegeltent at Christmas. The school choirs also take part in school concerts, fairs and assemblies.
- Instrumental performance opportunities include orchestra workshops at Bristol Beacon and school concerts, fairs and assemblies to which parents are sometimes invited.
- Speakers/performers are sometimes invited to join us for our assemblies, e.g. a blind musician who comes to talk about his disability and how this impacts his daily life. Past pupils are invited to visit and play their instruments in assemblies.
- We organize whole year group workshops on instruments such as djembes and steel pans so that children can experience the music of a different culture.
- We took a whole year group to Young Voices – an event where children sing in a concert amongst a massed choir of primary school children from across the country.
- Each year group takes part in a musical production in which they sing and act or play instruments.

In the future

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

- Next year we are planning to take year 5 once again to Young Voices – an event where children sing in a concert amongst a massed choir of primary school children from across the country.
- We are planning on collaborating with the music department at Bristol Free School. This could involve: putting on a joint concert; pupils from BFS performing in assemblies; pupils helping out in music lessons as part of their work experience; collaborating on a transition project between year 6 and year 7; and looking at the transition between junior and secondary school music curriculums.

Further information (optional)

