



Music development plan summary: Abbey Lane Primary School



At Abbey Lane Primary School, we are committed to providing all children with learning opportunities to engage in Music. Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

Abbey Lane Primary School aims to give pupils the opportunity to develop an appreciation of music through a combination of activities involving discussion, appraisal, rehearsal and performance. Our principal aim is to develop the children’s knowledge, skills, vocabulary, confidence and competence in Music. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and seek to combine these with performance-based activities. Our pupils will be exposed to high-quality live and recorded music and have the opportunity to participate in the creative process involved in making music by enjoying access to a range of musical instruments which they can use regularly and independently. Pupils will have the opportunity to work independently and/or collaboratively, demonstrating new skills and using new vocabulary, while being able to discuss, refine and evaluate their work both in rehearsal and in performance.

Music is a truly inclusive activity, which asks not for the participant to display virtuosity but rather enjoyment for the sheer pleasure of taking part in a creative process. Our school strives to encourage this attitude and approach towards Music for all its pupils.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Greg Munday
Name of local music hub	Sheffield Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Elegance Music Yang Hearnshaw

What follows is a summary of how Abbey Lane Primary School delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas:

- Curriculum music
- Extra-curricular provision
- Musical experiences

Also detailed are the changes our school is 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.

● Curriculum music

Information detailing our school's curriculum for Music, for each year group, can be found on its website under the Curriculum tab. This is also where information is located regarding how school supports pupils with special educational needs (SEND).

Our school both plans and delivers Music, covering the National Curriculum 2014, via Charanga; an online music teaching and learning platform with complete curricula, interactive teaching resources, music technology, online learning, career professional development (CPD) and training. This facility is used throughout school, providing complete curriculum coverage, and is suitably ambitious in its scope. Sequencing is clear, allowing staff to teach its content successfully and, most importantly, pupils can access its content and incrementally develop their learning whilst having the opportunity to revisit previous concepts. The Model Music Curriculum (non-statutory guidance for teaching Music, established in March 2021) is also available to use as a supplement to the Charanga online platform. As such, the subject leader has signposted each year group to supplementary resources from the Model Music Curriculum that can be used to aid the teaching of each topic.

Pupils are taught three Music topics throughout the year during timetabled Music lessons. Musical learning is supplemented by weekly singing assemblies in each Key Stage. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) take part in Charanga lessons, where they can learn about the meaning of songs and become exposed to different styles of music. Additionally, pupils in EYFS enjoy short bursts of regular singing time so that they can practice singing together as a group. Pupils with SEND are able to participate and progress along with their peers, being supported by technology and/or adapted instruments.

Singing and the playing of tuned and untuned percussion is the primary focus in EYFS and Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, pupils learn to play a wider range of instruments, including African drums in Year 3 and ukulele in Year 5.

● Extra-curricular music

Abbey Lane Primary School is keen to help pupils make progress in music beyond the core curriculum. As such, our school offers a range of extra-curricular musical activities. The overall provision is diverse, valuing all musical styles, genres and traditions equally; this is reflected in the clubs and enrichment programme and drawing on the skills, talents and interests of staff and local stakeholders through specialist tuition.

Pupils can receive one-to-one tuition in the following instruments:

- piano/keyboard
- drums
- guitar
- ukulele
- violin/viola

Additionally, all pupils from Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to join the school's choir, aiming to improve singing technique and performance. Pupils also have the opportunity to perform at city-wide events and events within our community.

Pupils from Key Stages 1 and 2 can also join the school band (courtesy of Elegance Music) culminating in a performance at the school's annual Musical Evening, where solo, duet and ensemble performances are undertaken.

Pupils have access to Yumu via the Charanga online platform. This allows access to an age-appropriate musical activity, as selected by the subject leader, to develop and/or enhance a pupil's musical journey.

At Abbey Lane, we believe that all pupils, including disadvantaged and SEND, have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular opportunities. Therefore, pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding are offered funded places at these after-school clubs and events. Pupils with additional needs are appropriately supported to join, ensuring that all pupils who wish to take part have the opportunity to do so.

● Musical experiences

Abbey Lane Primary School has an active choir and participates in a number of events throughout the year, including the Young Voices choir concert held at the Sheffield Arena, the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust choir concert at Meadowhead School and the Woodseats Festival. The choir also sings at a number of local venues in the run up to Christmas, thus engaging with the local community.

Throughout their time at Abbey Lane, pupils have a number of opportunities to perform to an audience. EYFS pupils take part in a Nativity production, learning multiple songs that they perform up to three times before an audience of their peers and parents/carers. Year 2 pupils also perform a Nativity production, as per EYFS, with the addition of dialogue. Pupils from Key Stages 1 and 2 perform Christmas songs and carols before an invited audience of parents/carers. Year 6 pupils adopt a similar approach when they perform a leaver's concert at the end of the academic year.

All pupils participate in weekly singing assemblies. In these assemblies, key vocabulary and concepts are revisited from music lessons, such as pitch, pulse and tempo. The songs learned include call and response chants, acapella versions of songs from different cultures and full songs taken from genres consistent with pupils' listening experiences.

Pupils from Key Stages 1 and 2, as members of the school band (courtesy of Elegance Music), perform at the school's annual Musical Evening where solo, duet and ensemble performances are undertaken.

All pupils experience first-hand the music of a professional musician(s). Recently, a classically trained string duet came to school where EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils learned about their instruments (violin and cello) alongside listening to a traditional tale set to music. Key Stage 2 pupils learned about the instruments, too, and enjoyed listening to a number of classical pieces before being given the opportunity to ask questions.

The future...

Plans are afoot to ensure more pupil-led termly performances in assembly and at school events/evenings, where pupils can showcase their talents with a view to further raise the profile of Music within school and inspiring their peers to take up a musical instrument.

School is looking to re-establish its links with the Sheffield Music Hub to further the range and opportunity of musical experiences for all its pupils. This is with the intention for the school to participate in Hub-led events, activities and workshops. The Hub has a whole host of different musical events and information regarding lessons and festivals. This is the link to their website: <https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/>