

Music Development Plan Summary: Avenue Primary School, Leicester



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Anna Palmer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jenny Goddard (HT)
Name of local music hub	Leicestershire Music Service

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.

At Avenue Primary School, the Charanga scheme is taught across Years 1-6 which enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills. Key concepts are clearly taught and embedded and extended across year groups, with children moving from the three concepts of pulse rhythm and pitch in KS1 through to more complex ideas in KS2. Evidence from listening and appraising tasks displays children deepening understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music and ever-developing ability to vocalise and explain these.

Recently, we have further adapted the Charanga scheme to ensure that all musical skills are covered and allow for more time to be spent on the improvisation and composition elements of each unit.

Although Charanga does meet the NC objectives, we ensure that there are additional opportunities for music learning to compliment Charanga lessons and vary the breadth

of skills taught. On a two-year rolling programme to accommodate mixed year groups, each year three or four Charanga Units are taught and are complemented by the following units:

- Music Technology - Garageband Unit (LSMS WCIT) (Year 3/4)
- Music Technology - Turntablism Unit (LSMS WCIT) (Year 5/6)
- Class Composer Day (All Year Groups – children learn about two different composers in each phase)
- Units linked to Curriculum, e.g. 'Rivers' and 'Egypt' in Year 3/4
- Year 3/4 take part in 'Orchestra Unwrapped' biannually and there is a unit of work completed prior to the concert.

Alongside the progression outlined in the Charanga scheme, we ensure progression in children's performances through the use of chime bars in Year 1/2, colour-coded glockenspiels in Year 3/4 and use of glockenspiels and keyboards in Year 5/6.

In composition, children in KS1 will record their compositions as a graphic score, in Year 3/4 children will begin to record music on a stave and in Year 5/6 they will have progressed to do this with more breadth and accuracy.

All our learning is evidence in our Music Big Books, alongside videos on Seesaw and the school server. Evidence in Big Books and pupil interviews show that key concepts and skills are being taught with progression throughout the phases which is evident in children's use of musical language, understanding and knowledge. This is evidenced in SA and PA bubbles and annotations made by class teachers as well as examples of children's composition.

In March 2024, we achieved the Gold Mark Music Award, receiving the following feedback:

Avenue Primary School prioritises maintaining a high standard of teaching and learning in music combined with a strong extra-curricular offer. There is a shared staff vision that music is an entitlement for all. All pupils are supported to gain skills of musicianship, preparing them well for the next step in their musical journey. There is much expertise across the staff team which is further supported by external partnerships with peripatetic teachers and other hub partners including Leicestershire Music. Since their last meeting with us the school have addressed the suggested actions and can now be awarded Gold.

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 Avenue Primary School, we currently offer individual and small- group lessons on the ukulele, recorder, clarinet, trombone, trumpet, euphonium, guitar, and piano

through peripatetic teachers. Teachers visit the school and teach children in our dedicated music practise room.

Individual and small group lessons are either funded by parents, through our dedicated 'Music Enrichment Offer' or for those children eligible for Pupil Premium Funding at no charge to parents initially.

Through our 'Music Enrichment Offer/ Pupil Premium Grant' we offer all children the chance to learn the following instruments free for first 3 months (nominal charge after). With the exception of piano, all lessons are in small groups, ranging from groups of 3 (clarinet, trombone, violin) to groups of 8 (recorder, ukulele).

Instrument	Year grp offered from	Instrument	Year grp offered from
Recorder	Year 2 onwards		
Clarinet	Year 5 onwards	Trombone	Year 4 onwards
Ukulele	Year 3 onwards	Piano	Year 3 onwards

We have a thriving orchestra and brass ensemble that meet weekly at 8am until 8.40am. Both groups are increasing in numbers. Within our orchestra we currently have: violins, trombones, trumpet, keyboards, guitar, ukulele and recorder. Our brass ensemble has trombones and trumpets. Both of our ensemble groups (orchestra and brass) are free and accessible to all of Key Stage 2 once they have reached a 'standard' good enough to manage the music to be performed.

We have singing (choir and musical theatre) and guitar clubs as well as a Garageband club that take place after school. There is a nominal charge for fee paying parents but pupil premium children can access all music after school clubs for free.

Each year, in June, we have a musical instrument enrichment day: children have the opportunity to try out 4 different musical instruments in workshops across the day. These will include: singing, a range of brass instruments, violins, oboes, flutes, keyboards, recorders, clarinets, drums.

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.

Children, at Avenue Primary School, will have the opportunity to be involved in and perform to parents and a wider audience by:

- Singing assembly (Yr. 3 & 4 – Tuesday; KS1 and Yr. 5 & 6– Wednesday);
- Singing songs and perform as part of the year group assembly to parents linked to our RE learning;
- Year 3 singing as part of a ‘massed choir’ along with 7 other Leicester City South Primary Schools in November annually;
- EYFS & Reception: singing during their nativity performances;
- Year 1 – 6: singing at the ‘Carols On The Playground’ events in late December;
- The school choir singing at ‘Pendene Care Home’ at Christmas and Easter to the residents;
- ‘Musical Theatre’ group singing in a short performance every half-term to parents;
- Orchestra, brass, ukulele groups, guitars, choir, Musical Theatre club perform at the PTFA Christmas Fair & Summer Fair;
- All year groups performing songs for parents at the ‘MacMillan Coffee Morning - September 2024. This event happens every two years;
- “We’re Making Music”: All of our ensemble groups including orchestra, brass, ukulele, guitar, recorder etc and soloist, duets and quartets were invited to perform as part of the ‘Clarendon Park Arts Festival’ to parents and a wider audience from the local area.

The children of Avenue Primary School will experience high quality live music within two-year cycle:

- Year 3 & 4 to see ‘Orchestra Unwrapped’ performance by the Philharmonic*;
- Children in Year 3 – 6 visited the Curve to see ‘The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe’* January 2025
- The children will listen to a brass quartet performance in school.

All activities are free to parents and children with the exception of * which are chargeable for all pupils but subsidised to those eligible for Pupil Premium Funding.

In the future

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

In developing our use and access to Music Technology, a Garageband after-school club has been introduced, with a very high uptake. To further this, when the Turntablism Unit is taught again in Cycle A (Autumn Term 2025) we will aim to

implement an after-school club to further develop children's interest and skills in this area.

We also aim to further develop the use of music technology in KS1 and will advance the use of Chrome Music Lab to support musical understanding, improvisation and composition within Charanga lessons in Years 1 and 2.

Although children across all year groups do have the opportunity to sing to an audience, (e.g. during the MacMillan Coffee Morning and Carols on the Playground), this year we aim to provide more regular opportunities for all children to sing to an audience.

Further information (optional)

Avenue Primary School achieved the 'Gold Music Mark' status in March 2024.

