Music Development Plan Summary

Beresford Memorial CE First School

2026-27

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026–2027
Date this summary was published	November 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Helen Cohen
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (Curriculum Lead)	Emily Hodgkinson
Name of local music hub	The Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Entrust Rocksteady Music School Young Voices Charanga

Part A: Curriculum Music

Music is taught in weekly, 1-hour lessons, from Nursery to Year 4 through the Charanga Creative Music Scheme. The planned, progressive curriculum supports the National Curriculum and develops performing, composing, listening and appraising, and musical knowledge. Pupils develop understanding of pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, structure, notation and musical vocabulary.

In Nursery and Reception, children have daily opportunities for rhymes, action songs, singing, instrument exploration, movement, listening and performance, building foundations for later learning. Across the school, pupils sing, improvise and compose, and play tuned and untuned instruments. Year 4 pupils receive whole-class ukulele tuition through the Local Authority Music Service, learning technique, chords, notation, rehearsal and ensemble skills.

Teachers assess practical performance, listening, composition, participation and musical skills, including through Charanga assessment opportunities. The Music Lead reviews curriculum delivery through observations, learning walks, pupil voice, staff discussion and assessment review. Activities are adapted for pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils are supported to participate.

Beresford Memorial CofE First School - Curriculum Information

Beresford Memorial CofE First School - Special Educational Needs

Part B: Co-curricular Music

Rocksteady Music School provides additional instrumental and vocal opportunities in guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals. Participating pupils rehearse and perform together in bands, building musical confidence, communication and teamwork. Half-termly Rocksteady concerts allow pupils to share their progress with families.

At Beresford Memorial First School, we are committed to ensuring that all pupils have access to musical opportunities, regardless of their background or financial circumstances.

Through our partnership with Rocksteady Music School, we benefit from an annual fully funded bursary place, which can be allocated to a pupil who would particularly benefit from instrumental tuition. This place can be rotated termly to widen participation. Rocksteady also offers a 1:1 match-funding scheme, whereby for every additional place funded by the school, a second place is provided free of charge. This enables us to use funding, including pupil premium where appropriate, to increase access to instrumental tuition.

These opportunities help us to remove financial barriers and provide targeted support for disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs. Through this inclusive approach, we aim to ensure that more children can experience the benefits of learning an instrument, performing as part of a band and developing musical confidence.

Singing is embedded in school life through hymn practice, collective worship, church services, seasonal celebrations, Christmas performances, assemblies and community events. Pupils are encouraged to take part regardless of background, ability or prior experience.

Our Key Stage Two school choir provides pupils with opportunities to develop their singing skills, musical confidence and enjoyment of performing together. The choir plays an active role in our local community, visiting nursing homes and performing at local Christmas events, bringing joy to others through music. Pupils also have the exciting opportunity to participate in Young Voices, performing alongside thousands of other children in a large-scale musical celebration. These experiences develop teamwork, confidence and a sense of belonging, while strengthening our school's links with the wider community.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Pupils have regular opportunities to perform in collective worship, church services, celebration assemblies, seasonal events and Christmas productions. Families are invited to half-termly Rocksteady concerts. Community carol singing helps pupils contribute to local events and strengthens school–community links.

Beyond school, pupils have opportunities to take part in Young Voices, singing with children from other schools. Year 4 pupils participate in the annual Victoria Hall Ukulele Festival. Pupils attend the annual Regent Theatre pantomime, providing experience of professional live performance, music and theatre.

Our school aims to make these experiences inclusive, with adaptations for pupils with SEND and support for disadvantaged pupils.

In The Future

Priorities for 2026–2027 and subsequent development are to strengthen progression in musical knowledge and vocabulary; increase access to live music and visiting musicians; sustain instrumental learning and performance opportunities; develop pupil leadership in music and collective worship; extend community partnerships; and ensure that disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND can fully access musical opportunities.

The Music Lead will monitor implementation through learning walks, observations, curriculum and assessment reviews, pupil voice, staff discussion and evaluation of performances and enrichment. The plan will be reviewed in July 2027.