

Music development plan summary: Beacon Academy

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Andrew Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Walsall Music Education Service (WMES)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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 Beacon Academy, we offer children from Nursery to Year 6 one hour of music education each week with a specialist music teacher.

In each year group, children have a different focus instrument that they use to explore the strands of the music curriculum, including performing, composing and listening.

In Early Years (preschool, nursery and reception), children learn nursery rhymes, number songs and well-known songs weekly. They sing these in small groups, as a whole class and on a 1:1 basis with adults as part of Expressive Arts and Design. The children have access to a range of instruments and sound-makers throughout continuous provision, allowing them to create and explore their own music.

Children in Year 1 to Year 6 take part in whole-school singing once a week as part of the weekly Values Assembly. Reception children begin attending these assemblies during the Spring term. Beacon Academy offers a bespoke curriculum created by the Academy's Music Lead. It takes inspiration from the Model Music Curriculum (MMC), Charanga, Kapow and SingUp. Planning, policy and progression documents are reviewed and updated annually.

Our two specialist SEND provision groups have dedicated music lessons each week. Lessons are adapted accordingly to the children in each group and include additional adult support. This was highlighted positively in our latest IQM report, published in June 2026.

Beacon Academy was awarded Artsmark Silver School status for the academic years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. Beacon Academy is also a current MusicMark school and has been awarded this status by Walsall Music Education Hub.

Our full curriculum can be found here : <https://www.beaconprimaryschool.co.uk/music/>

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.

Weekly small group and one-to-one lessons are offered on Piano, Guitar and Drums by specialist instrumental teachers already working at Beacon. These are funded by the parents should they wish their child/ren to partake. We have reduced the price of these lessons significantly improving the accessibility and inclusivity to our parents and children. Our Children in Care (CIC) are also offered lessons in conjunction with the Virtual School which are funded using money from the children's PEP.

Children in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to join the 'Voice Squad' choir which rehearses weekly and the Beacon Academy Orchestra will be launched giving opportunities for children from across the academy to learn and perform together. Music clubs at Beacon Academy are offered free of charge to again improve inclusivity and accessibility.

Children at Beacon Academy also have the opportunity to take part in singing events held at Walsall Arena and Arts Centre in both the Autumn and Summer terms. Outside of the academy day, children are signposted to instrumental lessons and ensembles offered by Walsall Music Education Service (WMES) at the Walsall Arena and Arts Centre.

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.

Throughout the year, children have many opportunities to take part in large-scale performances both within the academy and in the wider community. Whole-school singing is an important part of our culture. Pupils sing together weekly in our Values Assembly and during special events such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrations.

Links have been made with a local church. Their staff are now coming into school regularly to speak during assemblies and our choir have visited the church to perform.

In the Early Years, Preschool and Nursery children learn songs for a concert performed to parents, while Reception children prepare and perform a Nativity featuring 6–8 songs. At the end of the year, all pupils from Reception to Year 6 take part in a musical showcase, performing two songs across four performances to parents. Previous

themes have included 'West End Musicals', 'Battle of the Bands' and 'Through the Decades'.

As part of the Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust, our pupils also join together with other academies for collaborative events, including a large-scale Choir Concert and a trust-wide talent show culminating in a grand final held at a venue in the local area. In addition, children at Beacon Academy have the opportunity to attend the WMEHS Singing Festival (KS1 and KS2), where academies from across Walsall come together to perform, receive professional feedback, and rehearse joint pieces for a live audience.

Musical learning is further enriched throughout the year as children are introduced to influential musicians past and present. This includes celebrated composers, women in music, global artists, songwriters, and performers from TV, film, and West End musicals. Music also plays a central role in our weekly academy radio broadcasts. Pupils plan, script, and present their own shows, selecting a wide range of music to share with their peers. In addition, the class with the highest attendance each week chooses the music played daily across the academy and playground. This has introduced pupils to artists as diverse as The Beatles, Tina Turner, Guns N' Roses, Eric Clapton, Justin Timberlake, and many more. A "Musician of the Week" poster is also displayed outside the radio station to highlight and celebrate each artist.

During our annual International Week in June, children explore the music of a chosen country (such as Italy, America, India, China, Japan, Russia, Australia, or Mexico). They listen to and discuss traditional and modern music, and have the chance to learn and perform songs or instrumental pieces linked to that country.

In the future

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

- Each year group will have an element of music technology included within their learning. This will involve use of Chromebooks and VR headsets.
- To further create and strengthen links between the academies in the trust to offer more opportunities for performance and collaboration between our children.
- Further opportunities to join musical ensembles within the Academy as part of our extra-curricular offering.
- Implement CPD for staff to build confidence in teaching and leading musical activities.
- Build links with the community and secondary schools/ academies giving more performance and live music opportunities to our children.
- Music lead to undertake further CPD on early years and SEND strategies to make music more inclusive and accessible.

Further information (optional)

Further information and resources can be found on the following websites:

Home learning videos: <https://www.beaconprimaryschool.co.uk/beacon-on-youtube/>

Walsall Music Education Hub and Service: <https://www.walmused.co.uk/>

SingUp: www.Singup.org