

Music development plan summary: Bishop Alexander L.E.A.D Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	January 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Kelly Rollins
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	
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.

Curriculum

At Bishop Alexander, we use the Sing Up Music scheme across the school.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014) and the Early Years Foundation Stage (2025). It also meets the suggested approaches of the Model Music Curriculum (singing, listening, composing, performance/instrumental performance) and the National Plan for Music Education. The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence

- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

We recognise children at Bishop Alexander have limited musical experiences outside of school, so we aim to widen pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding of music by exposing children to a variety of genres, historical periods, traditions and the great work of composers and musicians. Our teachers raise awareness of music in school and provide curiosity and expression for children to become future musicians.

The aim is that children develop a life-long love of music, and they begin to feel they are musicians in their primary education. In each class, the teacher uses the music scheme to promote a love for music, adapting it to meet our current themes of learning.

Our curriculum gives children opportunities to learn to sing, play instruments, tuned and untuned, to play melodies, add accompaniments and create short compositions with increased confidence, imagination and control. Our children are invited to engage in discussions linked to emotions and understand how music can be used as a form of expression. Children will have access to instruments, and teachers will support children on how to become experts in performing. Our curriculum covers a broad and diverse range of repertoire, approaches and traditions, often linking to own experiences.

Implementation

In accordance with the National Curriculum, we ensure that coverage of knowledge and skills is developed sequentially throughout the school. We have adopted the Sing Up scheme, to ensure children receive the high-quality music lessons throughout the year. In EYFS music is rooted in everyday practice, particularly rhythm, spoken language and singing to develop language and social skills. In key stage 1 children will learn the basic knowledge and skills required to listen critically, create and perform music in a range of styles. In key stage 2 children will build on musical knowledge and develop skills in performing, creating and listening to more complex music. Children will expand their group performing skills. All children will be exposed to the same language, concept and skills in each unit, but the diversity and difficulty will increase as children progress through the scheme. Our music teaching is on a 2-year cycle, which is taught in blocks across the year, with the lessons being relevant to the current theme.

Our school's approach to musical development, focus on:

- Singing
- Listening
- Musicianship
- Composing
- Performing
- Reading notation

Sing-up provides a classroom-based, inclusive approach to learning. Children are actively encouraged to use and develop their singing voice, use body percussion,

whole body actions and the use of instruments. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have the opportunity to explore sounds, listen actively and to compose their own musical performances.

During lessons, children will learn music-specific vocabulary in a meaningful context. The idea is that children can use the language, discuss the meaning, understand it and appreciate and analyse it. Children are given opportunities to apply their skills and collaborate across the school including assemblies and clubs.

Lesson delivery

1. Learning objectives are clear and focussed with a clear success criteria which is used within the lessons and as assessment for learning.
2. A warm up/introduction.
3. The main activity which will introduce the new concept.
4. A conclusion which will recap the learning and a review of the learning intention.

Sing up allows for teachers to be prepared with resources and space needed for each lesson. The plans and resources help children to build on prior knowledge, whilst introducing new concepts and skills.

Music in EYFS

We teach music in Foundation Stage as a cross-curricular themed approach as part of the topic work covered during the year and as part of the specific area, Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative, identified in the Foundation Stage Framework (2025). We relate the musical aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs). Music contributes to a child's personal and social development. Daily rhymes, songs, counting songs, celebration songs are used to foster a child's mathematical ability and increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. Children's standards and achievements in Music are assessed in line with the School's Assessment Policy.

Planning

Our long-term plans shows when music is taught in line with the themes running throughout the school. The music plans detail the progression of knowledge and skills within each year group to ensure targets are met by the end of EYFS, key stage 1 and key stage 2.

Adaptation

We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes. Lessons and materials will support equal opportunities and be inclusive to all learners. Teachers will plan activities that are adapted and suitably challenged to meet the needs of all pupils.

SEND

We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express

themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Assessment

Teachers will assess music using the whole academy assessment system, DC-Pro. This supports teachers and the music leader to identify pupils working at ARE and GD and also inform next steps for those who are not working at ARE. We want all children to leave our academy having a depth of knowledge across the seven musical strands.

Resources

Within our store cupboard we have a range of percussion instruments for teachers to introduce children to.

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 Bishop Alexander, children have the opportunity to progress their level of music by:

- Instrumental lessons delivered by Inspire Hub.
- Young voices (KS2).

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.

In addition to the music curriculum, children have a variety of musical experiences within school. Children will be exposed to a variety of songs which link to previous knowledge of songs, current themes and songs we love at school and home. Children will listen to these songs and during singing assembly will practise in preparation for performing this at the end of each half term to families. Each week, children will

- Learn and sing a YouTube favourite
- Learn a new song in preparation for end of term
- Sing a sing up favourite

The whole school visits the Newark Palace Theatre in the Autumn term. In addition, the whole school creates their own performances, whether this is an end of term

celebrating learning, Christmas production or church services. We also invite external touring theatre companies to visit the academy.

Opportunities are used to develop musical experiences within the school, whole school and in classes, such as assemblies, celebrations and classroom routines. Workshops are held within school to develop children's musical knowledge and experiences.

Children also experience and apply music through other subjects, specifically P.E. The aim is that children will be exposed to different musical sounds, cultures, themes and experiences linked in with their physical development and movement in their P.E session.

In the future

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

Our next steps to develop our music curriculum are:

- To develop and support the recruitment of children for extra-curricular music activities.
- To provide music tuition with expert music teachers.
- Gain support from Sing Up for staff CPD to increase confidence in teaching music
- Broaden the range of musical performance opportunities for children in school and beyond: Young voices, Choir.