

Music development plan summary: Layton Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	January 2026
Name of the school music lead	Alice McAvoy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Catherine Rollinson
Name of local music hub	Blackpool Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Lancashire Hub

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.

Layton Primary School follows the Charanga music scheme, in line with the model music curriculum. All children, from EYFS to Key Stage 2, access music through whole-class ensemble teaching during timetabled music lessons per week, which amounts to one hour of teaching time per week. Charanga follows a spiral curriculum, meaning that all elements of music are introduced and revisited repeatedly from EYFS to year 6. This allows for children to develop their understanding of musical concepts and terminology through repetition of the key areas of music. The learning within these areas is built upon and developed appropriately allowing for learning to be consolidated and extended over time. The Charanga scheme consists of six units per year. Each of these units begins by introducing the focus, or key song, of the unit and builds towards a final performance of that piece. These performances take place within the classroom, or within wider assemblies. Within each unit, children also listen and appraise a variety of songs from a range of musical genres and styles. We believe that singing is key to developing

musicianship and as such, it is a core part of the music curriculum offer at Layton Primary School. Children develop their ability to sing with accurate pitch, and pay attention to phrasing and dynamics, through their weekly music lessons.

Children also learn how to play simple melodies on glockenspiels as part of an ensemble in their music lessons. Each Key Stage has access to a class set of glockenspiels. Children who are identified as being greater depth are encouraged to use their own instruments within their weekly music lessons where appropriate. Charanga offers sheet music for all curriculum songs in a range of instruments, and teachers are encouraged to provide these to children who play an instrument to use within the lesson. Through following the Charanga scheme, children also compose their own phrases of new melodic music through improvisation and written notation, as appropriate to their level of experience and development.

We also work closely with Blackpool Music Hub to further develop the music curriculum offer. Children in Key Stage 2 experience whole-class ensemble instrumental tuition in a range of instruments, including samba percussion and brass. In EYFS, children also experience music making with specialist providers from Blackpool Music Hub to help develop their musical skills, as well as developing their speech, communication, and confidence (TOPPS). TOPPS provides EYFS children with the additional exposure to music to help them to achieve their Early Learning Goals, and foster creativity and a love of 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.

Layton Primary School has strong relationships with Blackpool Music Service. Their musicians offer peripatetic instrumental tuition in a range of instruments to children in Key Stage 2. The instruments we currently provide tuition in are:

- Guitar
- Drums
- Violin
- Clarinet
- Brass
- Piano/Keyboard

This is a very popular opportunity, with many children from year 3 to year 6 learning an instrument. Instruments are provided to children on loan from Blackpool Music Service for the length of their tuition. Instrumental tuition is chargeable to parents, with some pupils being supported to access tuition with school funding when applicable.

Children who take part in instrumental tuition also have the opportunity to earn 'Music Medals' from Blackpool Music Service. These are non-compulsory, teacher-led assessments for instrumental pupils that introduce essential skills. They build on what is taught in lessons, and enable pupils to gain recognition for their hard work. Children can earn bronze, silver, and gold music medals, each of which come with a certificate and a corresponding badge. The Music Medal examinations are offered to pupils once they have displayed sufficient musical skills, understanding and progress within their instruments.

We have a dedicated music room which is equipped with a variety of instruments and equipment to support the delivery of instrumental tuition, and provides space for instrumental practise. The music room is also used for whole class instrumental tuition as part of the music curriculum.

In Key Stage 2, we also offer extra-curricular choir and musical theatre/dance clubs to develop student's love of the arts and performing. These are popular extra-curricular clubs, containing children from year 3 to year 6. Choir is delivered by our school music leader, and also a professional from Blackpool Music Hub, and is supported by other members of staff who have a love of music and singing. Choir currently takes place every week, and works towards three performances each year. Musical theatre/dance club also takes place weekly, and is run by staff members with backgrounds in performance, dance, and musical theatre. Musical theatre/dance club works towards two performances a year. Participation in these clubs is offered to children on a first-come, first served basis and children from all backgrounds and abilities are encouraged to take part, including those with SEND.

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.

Each week, children are exposed to and engage with music and singing as part of their assemblies. Children across school are introduced to a diverse range of music of a variety of genres as they enter and exit assemblies. Each half term there is a specific genre focus, with music of that style played. Children are encouraged to discuss the music they hear in assembly with their peers and staff. In Key Stage 2, children also take part in singing as part of their weekly celebration assembly. This is led by the member of staff running assembly and is supported by the school choir.

A range of musical performances are planned for each academic year. These include:

- Christmas performances and showcase of learning (All year groups)
- Christmas carol concert at St Marks Church (Choir)
- Lets Go Sing! performance at The Winter Gardens (Choir)

- Schools Alive at The Winter Gardens (Musical Theatre/ Dance club)
- Parental performances of instruments learnt in whole-class ensemble instrumental tuition (Year 3 and 5)
- Leavers show (Year 6)
- Leavers assembly (Year 6)

This year, choir have taken part in Lets Go Sing! workshops, and have been working towards a large performance at The Winter Gardens with other schools across Lancashire. Professional singers and teachers from Lets Go Sing! have worked with staff and pupils to prepare them for this performance. This has provided the students with the opportunity to learn from professional musicians and singers, and has also allowed them the chance to perform on a professional stage to a larger audience.

In the Spring term, musical theatre/ dance club take part in Blackpool Music Service's Schools Alive concert, where ensembles and schools across Blackpool take part in a large performance at The Winter Gardens. As part of this, students learn a song and perform it on a professional stage to a large audience.

As part of their whole-class ensemble tuition, children in Key Stage 2 also have opportunities to work and learn from musicians from a range of musical backgrounds and expertise. This is provided in line with Blackpool Music Service's Wider Opportunities provision and allows children with the opportunity to experience music being performed to a professional standard.

In the future

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

We are continuing to further develop the music curriculum to ensure that all children are developing a robust musical curriculum. Within the future we plan to implement further opportunities to compose music using tools such as Garage Band for pupils in years 5 and 6. This will allow children to recognise alternative areas of enjoyment within music, and further appreciate the opportunities available to them as musicians.

We aim to implement a termly performance for each year group, in the form of class assemblies. This will provide the opportunity for children to showcase their musical talents, and also experience performing to others. We also would like to develop the opportunities available for parents to experience their child performing, either within school or on a larger scale.

We want to develop the wider music experiences for children across the school, though perhaps most notably for those Key Stage 1. Also, we are striving to implement further opportunities for children to experience live performance both within the local area, and

beyond. We aim to develop even stronger links with Blackpool Music Service, and forge new links with other professional music organisations to facilitate this.