

Music Development Plan Summary: The Beacon CE Primary



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	1.10.25
Date this summary will be reviewed	1.20.26
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Bate
Name of local music hub	Resonate, Liverpool Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	In Harmony- Liverpool Philharmonic

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

The Beacon has been working in partnership with In Harmony Liverpool, for the past eight years to deliver a superb musical education to all our pupils. Launched in February 2009, In Harmony Liverpool uses orchestral music making to improve the life chances of children by increasing confidence, wellbeing, skills and resilience. This is enhanced by Royal Liverpool Philharmonic opportunities to travel, learn, perform and collaborate with professional musicians, international artists and other young people. Throughout their time in the school, all pupils receive weekly musicianship lessons which cover key concepts and skills such as sight singing and composition. School contributes financially to the In Harmony provision.

More information about In Harmony Liverpool and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic can be found here:

<https://www.liverpoolphil.com/about-us/in-harmony-liverpool/>

Every child learns an instrument from year three to year five, creating orchestral music free of charge for the student and family. Each pupil is provided with a strings instrument until year four- where they then have the option to change to wind or brass. This musical education not only covers the full content of the National Curriculum, but extends pupils' experience with world class professional tuition, access to an array of instruments and enrichment activities and regular performance.

EYFS: Opportunities for music provided in continuous provision.

3-4 room: 1 hour musicianship per week.

KS1: 1 hour musicianship per week.

Y3-Y5: 1 hour musicianship per week.

1 hour instrument lesson per week.

1 hour orchestra (strings or wind, brass and percussion) per week.

Y6: 1 hour creative music lesson per week.

The In Harmony curriculum has been developed over the last 15 years incorporating best practice from methods such as Kodaly, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Colourstrings. The curriculum has been benchmarked against the Model Music Curriculum to ensure full and extended coverage where appropriate.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

As part of our 'Inspire Plus' extra-curricular provision, the pupils also have the opportunity to join a weekly instrument-specific club (for year 4 and 5). Pupils who attend this club are encouraged and invited to take their instruments home to continue their practice outside of school.

Pupils are also encouraged to continue with learning their instrument through the In Harmony 'youth hubs' programme. Where pupils attend a weekly after school club/orchestra from Y6 and on into secondary school.

Some students are invited to take an ABRSM or Trinity instrument, graded exam. The exam fee will be paid by In Harmony and extra instrument lessons/ rehearsals are provided to support the student in achieving that grade. These have previously ranged from grade 1-4 on a variety of instruments.

Other students are invited to join In Harmony's Chamber Stars (Instrumental ensemble) or Chamber Choir and all children between Year 3-6 can access Liverpool Philharmonic's Melody Makers and Children's Choir.

All after school provision is free of charge and includes instrument loan.

All pupils from Y1-6 take part in a weekly singing worship, where they are able to sing as part of an ensemble. The music selected links to our Christian value focus for that half term, as well as holidays and special events.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This year, pupils will continue to have the opportunity to take part in a range of musical performances across the city, with In Harmony.

Students from Y3-6 will perform and sing at the In Harmony Liverpool's annual birthday concert in July. This event takes place at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, with students playing alongside the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

Nursery pupils will invite parents/carers in for their music 'stay and play' sessions, where adults can join in the music lessons with their children. This supports an understanding of the music provision and will begin to create long lasting partnerships between parents/carers, staff and the In Harmony team.

Pupils from Reception to Y5 will complete termly music sharings. Parents/carers are invited to come into school to watch pupils perform a range of pieces from their current instrument and ensemble lessons. This is a fantastic opportunity to monitor the progress of the pupils throughout the year, as they improve in their confidence and technique.

Pupils in Y6 complete an annual performance, to conclude their year-long creative project. This performance includes their own compositions and lyrics based on a local study. During the year, Year 6 also have the opportunity to work with the following organisations.

Pagoda Arts – Introduction to traditional Chinese instruments, their history and use within traditional and modern Chinese culture AND Introduction to the Chinese pentatonic scale – info on pagoda arts here - <http://pagodaarts.org.uk/>

African Drumming with Felix Ngindu – Intro to African Drumming, exploring some key rhythms and social context for traditional practise - <https://worldcommunityperformers.org/artists/felix-ngindu/>

In the future

The school will continue to work alongside In Harmony Liverpool to plan and deliver an extensive music curriculum, which meets and exceeds the national curriculum requirements. We plan to continue to develop the pupil's knowledge of historical and contemporary composers, linking to the history curriculum to do so.

The school will also continue to develop pupil opportunities for singing as part of an ensemble. Strengthening existing links with the In Harmony youth choirs, and continue to develop our partnership with the Liverpool Cathedral children's choir to provide even more opportunities for performance across a range of venues in the city.