

Music development plan summary: Brooksward School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Jayne Foster
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Milton Keynes Music Hub
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 Brooksward, we employ a specialist music teacher to teach our curriculum music lessons for Years 5 and 6 and also have weekly visits from a specialist music teacher from Milton Keynes Music Service to work with Year 4. These teachers work with each year group for 1 hour every week, all year. Children from Foundation to Year 3 are taught music by their class teachers. Our music curriculum is based on the Model Music Curriculum and follows the Music Express programme of learning. Our curriculum is based around 4 key concepts: Performing and Communicating, Improvising and Composing, Listening, Understanding and Appreciating and finally Dimensions (including key vocabulary and terminology).

In Reception, children are taught to sing songs as an ensemble, make music using different tuned and untuned instruments, and move to music in appropriate ways. Children are taught skills such as matching pitch, copying rhythms and following melodies.

In KS1, children learn about the different ways they can use their voices, increasingly matching pitch and following melodies as an ensemble. They explore the different tuned and untuned instruments and how they can use these instruments to create different effects. Children begin to understand basic notation including pitch line graphs and simple scores.

In KS2, children develop their musical understanding by learning more about musical notation. They write out short passages of music and use this to play each other's work. Through these units, they develop their knowledge of musical styles and structures including riffs, ostinato and rondo structures. They also use their voices in ensembles to create different effects including singing in multiple parts and with melody and harmony lines.

In Year 4, our music teacher from Milton Keynes Music Service teaches the children the xylophone. This is done as a whole class ensemble and they learn some information about the instrument and its origins, some basic chords and how to strum the strings to make different sounds. They learn several songs and the music teacher records a performance for their assessment and also to be shared with parents.

Our school has 314 children and 13% of them have some form of SEND need. To ensure those children are supported and included in music lessons, our staff all have access to the children SEN support plans, IEPs and EHCPs. Key information is shared with staff, including strategies for support individuals. Our music curriculum is based around the value of inclusion. Children with SEND needs are encouraged to take part and engage as much as possible with adaptations being made to provision for those that need it.

Part B: Extra-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.

Throughout the year, a range of after school clubs are offered to children across KS1 and 2. This year, during the Autumn and Spring terms we organised a Performing Arts club, run by some of our teaching staff and during the Summer term we had a Choir - children who took up this club had the opportunity to sing together in after school rehearsals for an hour. They sang a range of songs in different styles and genres from different periods in time and ended the term with a wonderful performance to the whole school.

In the Autumn term, as part of our Winter Fayre all children took part in a carol service for parents and the school. Due to the success of this event and the children's enjoyment, this has now become an annual event at Brookward.

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 get the opportunity to sing every week in school. Our teaching staff take turns to lead a singing assembly once a week and also, we have music in the other 3 assemblies that happen in the week. There is a set list of songs that are played in assembly, chosen to link to the theme of each week. Children listen to the songs of the week regularly and learn to sing along with them.

Teachers are encouraged to choose one song/ piece of music every week that is special to them or that they particularly enjoy. They then play this in their classrooms throughout the week. The aim of this is to broaden the children's experience of listening to music and expose them to songs and pieces that they may never listen to otherwise. This also encourages discussion and debate about musical styles and genres and the merits of them.

The Milton Keynes Music Hub also provide additional peripatetic music lessons in school on a weekly basis for children who are interested in learning an instrument across Key Stage 2.

In the future

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

Over the next year, we are looking to expand the range of musical experiences we offer our children. We are conscious we need to provide a wide range of different musical experiences for our children so that they can enjoy and explore as much music as possible. We plan to increase the number of trips to see live music this year, including inviting musicians in to perform for our children.

Another aim for this year and the next is to develop our stock of musical instruments to include more variety and better-quality pieces.

A school priority this year is to develop community engagement with our school. We see music as an excellent opportunity for this engagement and so will be looking for opportunities to invite people in to see some of our children perform, and also take our children out to make public performances.