



Music Development Plan Summary: Baxenden St. John's CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Helen Williams
Name of School Leadership Team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Helen Williams
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Hub

This is a summary of how Baxenden St John's CE Primary 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 for 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 section relates to when we teach curriculum music and for how long and what progression looks like in classroom music in our setting.

At Baxenden St. John's our intention is that all children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions and musical genres. Our objective is to develop a curiosity and enjoyment for the subject of music as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity of all types of music, both here and around the world. We expect our pupils to show an unbiased respect for the manner in which music may wish to be expressed in any person's life and we are committed to ensuring that all children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community. We encourage and enable all our children to use their musical skills, knowledge and experiences to involve themselves in music in a variety of contexts.

Our music subject leader in school has a long-standing and extensive musical background in both choral and instrumental study and regularly rehearses and performs outside of school in local choirs and orchestras.

Our Whole School Music Curriculum covers the requirements as laid out in the National Curriculum. You can see the school overview on our school website at:

<https://baxendenstjohns.school/subjects/music/>

Baxenden uses a bespoke music scheme designed by the music leader and drawing for the most part on resources and activities from our ongoing subscription to the 'Sing Up Website' (their 'curriculum planning' resource). Activities are planned with clear learning objectives that focus on specific skills, that align with the Lancashire KLIPS documents.

The core music teaching curriculum is enhanced by whole-class music opportunities such as being encouraged to use music (particularly singing songs) in a cross-curricular fashion as a vehicle for supporting history, RE and geography objectives as part of our Creative Curriculum.

The school has a skills progression from Reception to Year 6 and has five main components: listening and appraising, singing, playing, composing and performing.

Music in the Early Years:

The children begin their music journey in Reception through child-initiated activities and planned curriculum music inputs, with staff often using units from the 'Sing Up' curriculum planning or from other reliable sources such as BBC Teach. Children take part in the singing of songs, listening to and moving to a wide range of music and explore simple musical concepts related to pitch, dynamics and pulse such as high/low, loud/soft, fast/slow. They have access to a range of musical instruments to explore both in and out of doors. The children learn Nursery Rhymes clap/sing back short rhythms and patterns. They are introduced gradually to the school singing assembly where we learn whole-school songs for worship and wellbeing.

Music is on the school timetable for 1 hour a week in EYFS, which is a combination of music lessons and singing. Pupils regularly sing number and phonic songs as part of their English and maths provision.

Key Stage 1 and 2

Music in Key Stage 1 and 2 is timetabled for one hour. This includes a music lesson and a singing assembly. As the curriculum progresses, the children have good access to our wide range of untuned percussion instruments and learn how to play progressively more advanced pieces on tuned percussion like glockenspiels from Year 1 onwards.

All lessons include some singing and playing. The final outcome at the end of a unit of learning typically involved the children performing a song, applying what they've learnt about the dimensions of music. Pupils learn how to compose with the focus on different dimensions of music, using not only tuned and untuned percussion instruments but also with body percussion and vocal sounds, which develops their understanding of musical elements without added complexity.

In Key Stage 2, the children begin to carry out musical learning more directly related to the dimensions of music: pulse, duration (including rhythm), dynamics, tempo, pitch, timbre, texture and structure. In Year Three and Year Four all pupils learn how to play the ocarina in a whole-class setting which enables them to experience playing melodies in unison or in canon/harmony as an ensemble as well as how to read basic music notation, both standard and non-standard (Oc-pics/Ocboxes) and then stave notation.

Over their course of study, the children learn more complex melodies and rhythms that are sung and played. They are challenged to create compositions linked to a specific genre or melodic concept. The singing curriculum is supported by whole-school singing once a week in our weekly 'Prayer and Praise' assemblies. This is a combination of new songs and recapping previously taught ones, all the while developing musical skills in a religious context. Singing is an integral part of our worship as a Church of England school and our older students support our youngest pupils in learning new words, melodies and actions. We also use these assemblies as opportunities to listen to and appraise music from all styles and periods - often linked to our themes for worship.

Pupils with SEND are supported through adaptations, such as larger / smaller instruments, removing unnecessary keys etc. or if possible, providing additional adult presence. Teachers plan adaptation so that all children can be included.

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.

The children at Baxenden St John's have a wide range of choice when choosing an instrument to play outside of lesson time. Lessons are run by a range of private specialist peripatetic teachers.

We mainly offer small-group lessons and promising pupils may be able to move to an individual lesson – this is negotiated between the music lead, peri teacher and parents. We try to start these lessons as young as possible (available from the start of Year 3) to support their musical journey throughout school. There is a cost for these lessons, and we have a large stock of brass instruments and violins that can be loaned out to pupils when they first begin to play and/or for as long as they need one. Smaller sized instruments are available for our younger KS2 players.

Our current offer is:

Instrument	Teacher	Age Range
Violin	Private	Years 3 – 6
Guitar	Private	Years 3 – 6
Piano	Private	Years 3 – 6
Brass (various instruments)	Private	Years 3 – 6
Classic Rock Bands	Private – 'Rocksteady'	Years Reception – 6

Children who receive Free School Meals or Pupil Premium Plus are offered lessons with no charge. The school covers the cost of one instrument per child. All children who learn to play an instrument in school are invited/encouraged to perform for their peers in the classroom, in assemblies and at the school Summer Concert (annual). They are also encouraged to take up opportunities for wider playing outside of school, such as with local junior brass bands or through Lancashire Music Service's ensembles.

The music leader runs a large and thriving choir with no charge to parents which is open to all children in Key Stage Two. Older children who are experienced members are expected to act as role models and unofficial mentors to younger/new members who may need support with confidence and learning melodies/lyrics. The choir sings a wide range of different songs from many genres and periods, and older children are often consulted for ideas for repertoire. The choir learns a good range of fun warmups which encourage good co-ordination and boost confidence as well as supporting good vocal health.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we provide or are associated with, such as singing in assembly, performing in concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

At Baxenden St John's, we see performance as a whole as an integral part of musicianship. All children who learn to play an instrument get the opportunity to play in front of the school as referenced previously. We provide a wide and relevant range of pre-recorded music to listen to/view and try to book live music groups for children to view and/or engage with where budget and time allows.

Experience	Age Range	Frequency
School Singing Practice	Whole School	Weekly (20 mins)
Remembrance Sunday (main Hyndburn service in Oakhill Park) – we lead the singing of the hymns	Choir members	Annually - November
'Baxenden's Got Talent'	All children may audition – finalists are then selected from each class	Summer Term
School Nativity	Reception – Year 2	Autumn Term
Carol Concerts/Performances – inc the Accrington Lights Switch-On	Years 3 – 6	Autumn Term
Christmas Concert	Instrumentalists & choir	Autumn Term
Let's Go Sing project	Choir	Spring Term
Summer Concert	Instrumentalists & choir	Summer Term
Rock Steady Concerts	Rock steady tuition	Termly
Leavers' Play	Year 6	Summer Term
Church Services	All children	Throughout the year
Christmas Pantomime	All children	December
Wider performance opportunities – e.g. joint concerts with adult choirs and local high schools	Choir	As and when they arise

Bethany Choir visit	All children	Once every 1-2 years
Rock Kidz workshops	All children	Once every 2-3 years
Peri teacher performances – ahead of advertising our instrumental offer to parents	All children	Every summer
Live theatre visits (funded for Pupil Premium children)	A selected class as part of a cultural visit experience to Manchester, London or other city	Every 2-4 years; cohort dependent

In the future

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

- To have as many live performances as possible in school for the children to listen to (this includes live 'on screen')
- Replace old/sub-standard whole-class glockenspiels for a better teaching, learning and playing experience during curriculum music lessons