

River Bank Primary School Music development plan

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Louise Gannon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hannah Leech
Name of local music hub	Luton
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	ENO – Finish This Project

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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 who we work alongside to support our music curriculum.

Music is taught across the school from EYFS through to year 6. Each class has a timetabled weekly half an hour slot for music as well as opportunities for music across the rest of the week in assemblies and weekly half hour singing assembly.

In previous years the school has followed Active Music in each year group but in September 2024 we adapted our provision to allow for more specialist and instrumental based teaching. During the academic year of 24/25, KS2 had the Luton Music Service deliver lessons. EYFS and KS1 used the charanga scheme.

The whole school (apart from year 4 and 5) now follow the Charanga music scheme which gives pupils the opportunity to listen to music, sing, play instruments, compose and develop a deeper understanding of music vocabulary and terminology. Pupils

develop skills in relation to pitch, rhythm and pulse and the playing of tuned and untuned instruments.

In KS2 we work in partnership with our local music hub (Luton Music Service) to deliver whole class instrumental lessons to every child. In Year 3, in partnership with the English National Opera, year 3 complete a term's project called 'Finish This' which sees the children composing a piece of music to complete an unfinished piece provided by the ENO. This was a huge success for the past 2 years. After the brilliant outcomes of the Year 4 whole-class violin lessons, this will continue this academic year, led by Luton Music Service. Year 5 will also continue to have instrumental lessons from the LMS.

During the last academic year, SEND children participated in pre-teach session allowing them to experience instruments. This was very beneficial, allowing children to be introduced to the instruments and some terminology before the rest of their class. We hope this will continue this year.

We believe that music at River Bank is very inclusive and we can see that our SEND pupils are engaged and active participants in music lessons. Delivery of lessons is adapted by our teachers to meet the needs of our pupils. This may include using group work to support individuals or in the deliberate selection of instruments for certain pupils.

Extra-Curricular Music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choir, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We aim to support our pupils in continuing their musical journey outside of the classroom. We use Luton Music Service to provide peripatetic music teachers in the individual and small group teaching of flute and violin for those pupils who have excelled during whole class teaching or demonstrate an interest beyond the classroom. With our new approach to whole school instrumental lessons beginning this year, we are hoping that this will shape a pathway for more children to extend their instrumental teaching beyond whole class teaching in the future. Individual and small group instrumental teaching is currently being funded by parents direct with Luton Music Service. Alongside these instrument lessons, I am also in the process of arranging additional lessons with Rock Steady Music School, these lessons will be for guitar, drums etc.

We also have a very active choir who practice weekly. This is run by a teacher in the school with a passion for singing and performing. The choir perform on a termly basis and last year's performances included performing at Young Voices at Wembley Arena and at the town's Singing Spectacular concert in the summer.

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.

We hold a weekly half hour singing assembly run by Luton Music Service for KS2 and school staff in KS1 and EYFS. Children are exposed to a range of music styles and learn songs linked to our values, current topics and popular events and festivals across the year. School staff also attend these assemblies and act as role models to the pupils.

Each term, Years 3 to 6 perform a musical concert to another year group which showcases what they have learnt in their instrumental lessons. This offers an opportunity to perform to an audience and inspires pupils in younger years to play an instrument. Each class also performs a class assembly once a year to parents which includes a performed piece of music – either instrumental or the singing of a song.

In addition to curriculum expectations, previously we try to provide a wider musical offer with a composer of the half term. This year it will be changing to a musical legend of the month, which will incorporate learning about particular music artists, their genre and associated instruments and styles. This has been planned on a two-year cycle, in the hope to expose all our children to different musical styles, reflecting the differing backgrounds of pupils.

We try to engage with as many visitors and musical performances for our children as possible. We endeavour to provide pupils with the opportunity to see instruments being played and to meet musicians. In the past we have had a performance by a gospel choir as part of Black History Month and a musician from the English National Opera perform to our pupils at a celebration event for a Year 3 project.

I also hope the Rock Steady Music School will come in and perform during assembly.

We also take all of our children to a local theatre to watch a pantomime once a year so they can enjoy a live performance and see the workings of the theatre. This is funded

for all our pupil premium pupils so everyone gets the opportunity to enjoy and be inspired by live musical performance.

Our music lead attends termly co-ordinator meetings with our local music hub which is a fantastic opportunity to network and keep up to date with updates and new approaches. We have also attended music meetings in our local central area partnership of schools where music co-ordinators are able to come together to share good practice.

In the future

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

- We are excited that we are extending our music curriculum provision this year and will be giving all our KS2 pupils the opportunity to learn an instrument.
- We are keen to develop the subject knowledge and confidence of our teachers in teaching music. This initially started during the previous academic year, when teachers were given the opportunity to observe specialist music teachers.
- In subsequent years, we hope to provide a pathway for music which will see children continuing instrumental learning beyond their classroom. We hope to provide more opportunities for music across the school with more pupils being given the chance to continue to learn an instrument. We plan to use the whole class instrumental lessons to identify children who show a particular talent in an instrument and to be able to provide (either supported by parents or by pupil premium) a pathway for individual music tuition and awards.
- We would also like to provide more opportunities for musical club provision.