

Music development plan summary: Barnwell Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Jack Longstaff
Name of local music hub	Sunderland
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sunderland Music 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.

At Barnwell Academy, music is taught to engage and inspire children to be creative. Our curriculum is bespoke to ensure it is fit for purpose for our pupils. We take some inspiration from the model music curriculum but we do not follow one specific approach. Our curriculum is progressive and is designed to help children build upon their knowledge and apply it confidently through performance in class and in front of an audience. Lessons are a minimum of 60 minutes, once a week, and they are taught by class teachers or a music specialist. Teaching is supported by specialist planning/guidance and we use some units of the Charanga curriculum schemes.

Children in Year 1 play glockenspiels for a half term to identify pitch. These children will also play untuned percussion instruments such as drums to support their understanding of rhythm and pulse.

Children in Years 2,3,4,5 and 6 learn Samba drumming. In these lessons, children learn Samba patterns that are progressive and purposeful, which leads up to the final Year 6 leavers Samba performance. In addition to Samba, children in these year

groups also play recorder and keyboards for one half term. These lessons are taught by class teachers using Charanga and music specialist schemes of work. Each project lasts 6 weeks and culminates in final music performances in the classroom.

In all year groups, we have singing units to ensure children have opportunities to develop singing skills. We devote considerable time towards learning music theory, and we ensure we expose children to different genres of music in the hope it broadens an appreciation of specific styles.

It is our belief that the aspirations for every child is to develop a passion for music while promoting the importance of music in the world. We would like the best possible outcomes for our students following their primary education. This will enable our children to take opportunities to enhance their knowledge and confidence when engaging with music in adult life.

To read in more detail about the provision music at Barnwell Academy, please visit our music curriculum page: <https://www.barnwellacademy.co.uk/Parents/Curriculum-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.

Children at Barnwell Academy can continue to share and develop a love of music by participating in extracurricular activities. We currently offer small-group lessons on guitar, keyboard and violin. These sessions give our children the opportunity to learn further skills in performance as well as developing music theory. Music tutors visit the school and teach children in a music practise room. Some children who have participated in these further lessons have gone onto learn their chosen instrument outside of school. Some children have the opportunity to perform their chosen instruments in school performances such as end of year or Christmas shows.

Barnwell has a thriving Key Stage 2 Choir, who sing at various events throughout the year including Christmas services and local care homes.

All tutor sessions happen weekly and they are facilitated by music specialists or musicians. Small group lessons are funded by parents, however, for those children who are Pupil Premium, these lessons can be funded by the Pupil Premium provision (when eligible). The choir is free and accessible to all of Key Stage 2.

We work closely with Sunderland Music Hub to ensure we can offer the best possible music opportunities for our children. If you have an enquiry regarding instrumental lessons on offer, please visit our school page on our website or call our school office.

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.

Children will have the opportunity to perform or experience high quality music within the academic year. Please see below for a list of those opportunities:

- The Year 1 trip to the 'Mini Sing' at The Glasshouse, Newcastle.
- The Year 4 trip to at the Sunderland Empire for 'Sunderland Sings'.
- The choir performing popular summer songs for our annual, end of year choir concert.
- Sunderland Band Performance, July 2026
- The Year 6 end of year Samba performance for parents.
- The KS1 Nativity performance.
- The KS2 Christmas performance festival.
- The Year 6 end of year assembly.

In the future

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

In the coming year, we will continue to develop our music curriculum, with a particular focus on strengthening the evidence of musical learning in children's books. We will further develop children's composition skills, most notably through our use of Charanga, while providing more opportunities for children to perform and sing at school and community events. We will also look to bring more live music experiences into school and continue to support staff through relevant CPD, building confidence and subject knowledge.