

Music Development Plan 2024-2025

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Jul 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Jul 2025
Name of the school music lead	Tom Howell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	None
Name of local music hub	Bradford Music & Arts Service
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 BVGA, all students study music for one hour a week at KS3, and for three hours as an option subject at KS4. Music is taught in dedicated music spaces by subject specialists. We believe in the power of music as a universal language that transcends boundaries. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of music, fostering their individual talents and interests. We offer a diverse range of musical disciplines, including keyboards, drums, electric guitar, bass guitar, and more. Our curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021) whilst also celebrating the diverse musical backgrounds of our students and supporting those who wish to study specialist instruments such as the clarinet or voice. Our curriculum is powered by breaking down the distinction between performance and production, and as such we deliver music performance, theory music production, composition, remixing, and reworking through the use of Ableton Live. Our key focus is to blend music theory, performance, and music technology so that all students are equally capable in all disciplines.

Students have the opportunity to gain the Arts Award Bronze, ABRSM & Trinity Rock & Pop graded exams, and at KS4 we successfully deliver the BTEC Tech Award in music practice. We also have partnerships with local music hubs and All Star Music as well as Youth Music. We are a Music Mark school and are applying to be a lead Hub school for the West Yorkshire Hub.

Music is not just a subject at our school - it is a way of life. It is the creative expression of all other subjects, drawing together science, technology, languages, humanities, and mathematics. Music inspires, develops creativity, and allows people to share ideas, emotions, and thoughts without the need for a common language. It teaches resilience, compromise, communication, inspiration, and self-discipline. Through music we deliver the findings of Bill Lucas' research into the Creative Habits of mind. We know that not all students will have a career in music, but the social, emotional, problem solving and transferrable skills such as developing skills and sticking with difficulty will stay with the throughout their lives.

Our aim is to help students grow socially and creatively while developing the skills required in an ever-changing and fast-developing future. We strive to ensure that our music curriculum is varied, active, flexible, responsive, and engaging, and that learners produce something of which they are proud and have ownership. As Albert Einstein once said, "I often think in music. I see my life in terms of music." We hope to inspire our students to do the same. Music is what our feelings sound like, and we are committed to helping each student find their unique sound.

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.

In alignment with the model music curriculum, our school offers an extra-curricular music program that encourages students to explore and enhance their musical abilities. Students are welcome to participate in an after-school club,

held twice a week, which provides an open forum for them to collaborate with fellow music enthusiasts and develop their skills.

While we do not offer formal ensembles or instrumental lessons within the school, we provide resources such as guitars and keyboards that students can borrow during weekends and school holidays. This allows them to practice and experiment with music in their own time, fostering independent learning and creativity.

Furthermore, we utilise digital platforms to extend learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Students can access online apps and tuition to further their musical education at their own pace.

Although our timetable does not accommodate formal ensembles or choirs due to our split lunch model, we have practice rooms available for use before and after school. This enables interested students to rehearse and grow as individual musicians or as part of small ensembles.

In addition, we actively guide interested students towards external music-making organisations such as the local music hub and All Star Entertainment. This broadens their exposure to the music community and provides additional avenues for them to pursue their musical interests.

Our approach embodies the best practices for extra-curricular music as outlined in the model music curriculum, promoting a holistic and flexible approach to music education.

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.

Despite the changes to the school day and calendar that have limited in-school performance opportunities, we have strategically planned musical experiences throughout the year to ensure our motivated and engaged students can perform regularly if they wish.

Our annual Christmas pantomime provides an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and celebrate their creativity. This event is a highlight of our school calendar and is eagerly anticipated by both performers and audience members alike.

In the summer, we host a community Mela, a vibrant celebration of music and culture. This provides another fantastic platform for our students to perform and share their musical talents with the wider community, if they choose to do so.

Furthermore, we are delighted to offer our dedicated and enthusiastic students the opportunity to perform at St George's Hall as part of the BDAT Annual Performing Arts Concert. This event is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our students and serves as an inspiration for their peers. All year 7 students are given the opportunity to attend.

While in-school performance opportunities may be limited, these external events provide invaluable experiences for our students, allowing them to grow not just as musicians, but as confident and expressive individuals.

In the Future

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

At Belle Vue Girls' Academy, we are committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive music culture. We believe that music is a universal language that can inspire, motivate, and bring people together. Here are some of the ways we plan to enhance our music department:

Increase Access to Instrumental Lessons: We aim to broaden access to instrumental lessons across a diverse range of instruments, including voice training. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that all interested students have the opportunity to explore and develop their musical talents. We are working towards making these lessons free or subsidised, based on individual student circumstances.

Reviving the Vocal Ensemble: We would like to reintroduce our staff and student vocal ensemble during the school day. This ensemble will provide a platform for students and staff to collaborate, learn from each other, and express themselves through song.

Samba and Percussion Ensemble: We would like to restart our school samba and percussion ensemble, "Bateria Boa Vista" This ensemble offers a unique opportunity for students to learn about different musical styles and rhythms and perform across the community.

Termly School Performances: We will provide opportunities for all interested students to participate in a termly school showcase performance. These performances will showcase the diverse musical talents of our students and provide them with valuable performance experience.

Live Music Performances: Lastly, we aim to provide all students with the opportunity to enjoy a high-quality, professional live music performance at least once a year. We believe that experiencing live music can inspire our students and foster a deeper appreciation for the performing arts. We are excited about these improvements and look forward to seeing our students thrive in their musical pursuits. Music has the power to change lives, and we are committed to providing our students with the best possible opportunities to explore and develop their musical talents.

Further Information

The model music curriculum can be found [here](#)

Bradford Music & Arts website is available [here](#)

You can view the BVGA Music subject pages [here](#)

If you would like financial support for your child to access music, please check out Young Sounds [here](#)

You can access music and performance support from All Star [here](#)