

Music development plan summary: The Orchard

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Aimi Pinner
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Laura Valentine
Name of local music hub	SIPS
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.

The Orchard school has its own framework of intent based on the EYFS development Matters curriculum. Music development is covered by our 'Being Imaginative and Expressive' strand within 'Expressive Art and Design'. The framework of intent is a 19-step sequential, developmental curriculum and assessment document. All of our children have complex needs, severe learning difficulties and/or profound and multiple learning difficulties, the majority are working below NC level. We have in place in-depth medium-term plans covering a breadth of topics such as 'marvellous me' and 'the natural world'. We have developed a long-term plan to provide a wide variety of experiences of different musical genres such as classical, traditional, music through the ages and sea shanties through the topics. Progress is tracked on evidence for learning with observations and photo/video evidence of pupils learning.

Expressive Art and Design is a topic-based subject taught once per week. Classes will often have a musical element to these lessons relating to the topic. Every class has a range of instruments, and we have access to a minimal central bank of instruments

that we are continuing to develop, we have recently requested a variety of musical instruments through our school wish list. We provide specialist music provision through Big Top musical adventures; every child gets access to specialist provision for several continuous sessions per year. This year Big Top will also support us with 2 music festivals and performance afternoons. When we recognize children with musical talent, we quickly seek support from our music hub SIPS to provide specialist tuition.

Music is embedded throughout the Orchard curriculum, routine songs are sung throughout the day, musical experience, vocal and instrumental opportunities arise in all subjects such as communication, speech and language, reading and maths. Understanding the world allows children to experience music from a range of traditions and cultures. Every child will access other musical experiences such as Sensology, sound bath and many more. The orchard has an inclusive Makaton choir that rehearse weekly and 2 Orchard big top bands that rehearse weekly every other term.

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.

Music is embedded into daily life at the Orchard, most classes use established routine songs throughout the day, and music is used to cue in routines. The majority of classes have music as part of their weekly plans, music is threaded through most areas of the curriculum from on body rhymes in literacy, musical math's and religious music in Understanding the world. Most pupils experience other activities that encourage singing and musical development such as music for interaction, dance massage, Tac Pac, rebound therapy, story massage, interactive rhymes, musical math's, sound bath, Sensology and musical interaction; these activities provide a wide range of experiences in different musical genres that will often relate to the topics being taught or experiences of genres through the long term plan..

The Orchard has a Makaton choir that rehearses weekly, all children are welcome to join whether they are singing, signing, playing an instrument or moving to the music. Members take turns to choose their favorite songs, and the choir learn a rolling bank of songs changed termly.

Big Top have supported us to develop 2 school bands, one in middle school and one in upper school. Upper school band perform in school at the end of year assemblies. This year some school members will be part of a supporting wellbeing and PSHE through music project. We have recently had a community 'make music' day where Big Top supported us to create whole phase festivals, families joined us for musical activities in class then were invited to watch the choir and bands perform

We are developing links with the hub and other agencies to encourage musicians to perform at our school to give a wider range of experiences.

Most staff are confident in singing and sound making with our pupils.

When children start school, we find out their likes and dislikes; often favourite/comforting music is discussed, and this is used to support transition into school.

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.

The Orchard works closely with Big top musical adventures and has been in partnership for around 11 years. The school encourage families to attend external activities provided by Big Top in the community through newsletters and parent coffee mornings.

The choir perform at least once per term in school and where we can some members of the choir and the band perform at external events such as Sandwell sounds sharing events and Sandwell's shine a light festival.

We are working to find musicians that will perform in the school as sometimes accessing community events can be difficult for large numbers of our pupils. We are continuing to use the Hub to find other Local performers to play in school to provide a wider range of experiences, and we have recently made contact with Birmingham Conservatoire to find performers that will come into school to play.

The Orchard works closely with families and will provide parent workshops to enable parents to better understand the activities we do with our children and how to support these at home.

In the future

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

We are continuing to work with our local Music Hub SIPS Education to make links with local schools and musicians to provide a wider variety of experiences in school for our pupils and work with SIPS to explore more adapted and accessible instruments,

We will continue to provide a family morning to explain our creative curriculum and sign post our families to musical activities outside of school, developing pupil and family experiences, preferences and choice.

Further information (optional)

The Orchard School supports <https://www.bigtopmusic.co.uk/>