

Music Development Plan Summary 2026-27: Bidston Avenue 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	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Lauren Montgomery
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Nicola O'Toole
Name of local music hub	The Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	• FutureYard Birkenhead • Amasing • Over The Water • Liverpool Empire (ATG Entertainment) • Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

Overview

This plan summarises how Bidston Avenue Primary School provides music education through curriculum teaching, instrumental and vocal opportunities, clubs, performances and wider musical experiences. It also explains how we work with specialist partners to give pupils access to musicians, composers, theatres and live performances.

Our aim is for every child to develop the knowledge, skills, confidence and enjoyment needed to participate in music during their time at school and beyond.

Other music education organisations: Future Yard Birkenhead; AmaSing; Over the Water; Liverpool Empire Theatre and ATG Entertainment; Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra; Edsential and the Liverpool City Region Music Hub.

Part A: Curriculum music

Our music curriculum develops children's knowledge, skills, creativity and confidence. Pupils learn to listen carefully, sing, play instruments, improvise, compose and perform. Music also supports wider development, including coordination, concentration, mathematical understanding, teamwork and self-expression. We want every child to experience the enjoyment of making music and to see themselves as someone who can participate in musical activity.

Our music curriculum is published on the school website and sets out the learning provided for each year group. It is designed to meet the needs of all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Teachers adapt activities, instruments, notation and methods of participation so that every pupil can take an active and successful part in music.

Pupils receive at least 45 minutes of curriculum music teaching each week, supported by regular singing opportunities. Our curriculum is built around the Charanga Music School programme and develops learning through listening, appraising, singing, playing, improvising, composing and performing. Pupils encounter music from different periods, traditions, cultures and genres, from classical composers to contemporary artists.

In Year 3, pupils receive specialist teaching from a visiting music teacher and learn to play the ukulele (provided by Everton FC as part of our trust). This whole-class instrumental teaching gives every child the opportunity to develop technique, follow musical notation, play as part of an ensemble and perform to others. It also supports teachers in developing their own musical subject knowledge.

Weekly singing assemblies give pupils regular opportunities to develop their voices, sing together and experience music from a wide range of cultures, genres and traditions. Our focus on different composers and artists broadens pupils' musical knowledge and introduces them to musicians whose work, backgrounds and experiences reflect the diversity of music in Britain and across the world.

Across Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils learn how music is created, performed and communicated. They develop their understanding of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and musical notation. Pupils apply this knowledge when singing and when playing classroom instruments, including glockenspiels, recorders and ukuleles.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We continue to develop our partnership with Future Yard in Birkenhead, giving pupils opportunities to experience live music and learn from working musicians. Through Band Club, pupils develop their instrumental and performance skills by rehearsing and playing together. Future Yard also provides live music assemblies for pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 and helps families find accessible musical experiences within the local community, including Mosh Tots.

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 have opportunities to visit the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, where they can hear a professional orchestra perform and take part in ensemble singing. These visits help pupils understand how orchestras work, recognise different instruments and experience the power of live music in a major performance venue.

Through our partnership with AmaSing, pupils participate in music and arts activities designed to develop creativity, confidence and wellbeing. Opportunities include live orchestral sessions, singing rehearsals led by professional musicians and composers, and performances alongside pupils from other schools. Music ambassadors also take part in songwriting activities, developing their understanding of lyrics, melody, composition and collaboration.

Liverpool Empire and ATG Entertainment

During 2026–27, we will begin a new partnership with Liverpool Empire Theatre through the ATG Inspire Primary School Partnership Programme. Pupils in Year 4 and above will rehearse and perform a full school production of ***Shrek the Musical JR***. A group of approximately 30 pupils will then transfer a selected section of the production to the Liverpool Empire stage, culminating in a performance at the theatre on Thursday 1 July 2027.

The ATG Inspire team will provide two in-school support visits during the rehearsal process. These will include practical workshops for pupils and professional feedback to help the cast prepare for performing at the Liverpool Empire. Two members of staff will also attend specialist professional development at the theatre, covering the use of the production materials, effective ensemble work and simple choreography.

Liverpool Empire Opportunities

The Liverpool Empire partnership will also provide wider creative experiences across the school. Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils will have access to the dress rehearsal of the BBC CBeebies pantomime *Treasure Island* and in-school experiential play and storytelling workshops. Years 3 and 4 will take part in storytelling activities inspired by *Cats* and the poetry of T. S. Eliot, while Years 5 and 6 will be offered a related creative writing challenge. Together, these opportunities will help pupils understand the close relationship between music, theatre, storytelling, movement and performance.

Instrumental tuition

Pupils will be offered opportunities to take part in individual and small-group instrumental tuition, including guitar and ukulele. Working with external music specialists will allow pupils to develop their technique, confidence and independence while creating a pathway for those who wish to continue learning an instrument at a higher level.

Through curriculum teaching, clubs, tuition and our partnerships with local and regional arts organisations, pupils will have meaningful opportunities to perform, compose, listen and participate in music. These experiences are intended to widen access, identify and develop musical interests, and help pupils build the confidence to continue making and enjoying music beyond primary school.

Part C: Musical experiences

We recognise that pupils need rich and sustained cultural experiences if they are to understand the wider world and imagine future possibilities for themselves. Our music provision introduces children to music from different cultures, traditions, historical periods and genres. Pupils are encouraged to listen closely, express informed opinions and respond respectfully to the views and preferences of others.

Pupils have regular opportunities to perform during lessons, singing assemblies, school productions, church services and events for families and the local community. Performing individually and as part of an ensemble develops listening, turn-taking, cooperation, commitment and confidence. Pupils also experience professional performances, theatre visits, workshops, instrumental tuition and live music delivered by our partner organisations.

Our partnership with Liverpool Empire and ATG Entertainment adds a substantial musical-theatre experience to this provision. Pupils will experience the full process of preparing a production, including singing, acting, movement, rehearsal and performance. Performing first at school and then on the Liverpool Empire stage will give participating pupils an authentic experience of working towards a large-scale public performance.

Together, these experiences help pupils develop their musical knowledge while creating memorable opportunities to participate, contribute and perform. They support our commitment to ensuring that pupils can achieve highly, discover new interests and see music and the wider arts as something in which they belong.

In the future

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

Developing partnerships

We will continue to develop long-term partnerships with music, theatre and arts organisations, including Future Yard, AmaSing, Liverpool Empire and ATG Entertainment. We will evaluate which opportunities have the greatest impact on participation, musical development and pupils' confidence, and use this information to shape future provision.

Instrumental tuition and progression

We will broaden access to instrumental tuition and further develop Band Club so that more pupils can learn an instrument and play with others. We will also strengthen the pathways available to pupils who wish to continue with instrumental or vocal tuition beyond whole-class curriculum teaching.

Singing and performance

We will strengthen singing across the school through regular assemblies, curriculum lessons, productions and public performances. We will use the Liverpool Empire partnership to develop staff confidence in ensemble singing, choreography and musical-theatre production.

Musical knowledge

We will continue to raise the profile of orchestral music, composers, performers and contemporary artists. Pupils will encounter musicians from a wide range of cultures, backgrounds, periods and musical traditions, helping them build a broad and connected understanding of music.

Monitoring participation

We will monitor participation in clubs, tuition, workshops and performances to check that opportunities are reaching pupils from all backgrounds. Where barriers are identified, we will consider practical and financial support so that cost, confidence or previous experience does not prevent a child from taking part.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.