

Music development plan summary:

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Lisa Green
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lisa Green
Name of local music hub	Edsential Musical Routes
Name of other music education organisation(s)	

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 any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At Comberbach, we offer a Music curriculum which is holistic and wide-ranging. Pupils at Comberbach experience a breadth of musical genres, through live and recorded performances. Pupils develop music-specific knowledge and skills, appropriate to their curriculum pathway, including sound recognition, listening skills and performance skills. Music offers our pupils unique opportunities to connect and interact with one another and with their environment.

Pupils in each of the pathways (at EYFS, Key Stage 1 and 2) experience a range of music-based learning that equates to the suggested minimum one hour per week allocation. In the EYFS, the music curriculum is delivered as part of a holistic approach across multiple shorter sessions. Pupils in the Formal Pathway (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) access the equivalent of six hours theme-based learning each half-term, incorporating the teaching of relevant knowledge, skills and understanding.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Pupils in EYFS experience music as part of the Expressive Arts and Design curriculum. The Expressive Arts and Design curriculum at Comberbach aims to provide pupils with a foundation for moving progressively through the intended curriculum.

Pupils have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of musical activities embedded in the broader curriculum. They develop their listening skills in a range of musical genres, develop their early music-making skills, and gain experience with familiar classroom instruments. Across the broader curriculum, children in Early Years engage in music through rhyme and rhythm activities, such as number rhymes, sequences and poetry.

KS1 and KS2

The music curriculum at Comberbach is engaging, progressive and supports the requirements of the national curriculum.

The interrelated dimensions of music weave through the units to encourage the development of musical skills as the learning progresses through listening and appraising, differing musical activities (including creating and exploring) and performing.

The music curriculum at Comberbach enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning. Learning about the same musical concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills.

Through the music curriculum, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Repeating a musical skill doesn't necessarily mean their progress is slowing down or their development is moving backwards! Mastery of the curriculum means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

In Year Five, children are taught to play a tuned instrument by a specialist teacher from one of the local high schools.

Part B: Extra-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.

Pupils have access to extra-curricular music through our Enrichment programme.

There are music-based enrichment groups, aimed at different age groups and pupils can opt to join a different enrichment group each term.

Some of our musical offerings include:

- Young Voices Choir
- Mini Musicians

There is no cost to pupils to partake in any of these activities.

We also offer private Guitar lessons on site with Music for Schools.

Students who are passionate or enjoy the music sessions in school are encouraged to use our school links to join community music groups such as Vale Royal Wind Band, or Bostock Band.

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.

Pupils at Comberbach Nursery and Primary School have numerous opportunities to experience music outside of the classroom.

All pupils have the opportunity to experience music in our regular assemblies. During Singing Assemblies, pupils meet with other classes in their age group to celebrate each other's achievements.

In addition, we have several annual performances across school. These include KS1 and KS2 Christmas performances as well as the Year 6 end of year production. Each of these performances incorporates singing including solos. Our whole school also perform in a yearly Carols Around the Tree which is a Christmas Carol Service where the whole school performs for members of the community and parents.

This year, due to our FoCS (parent support group) support we were able to fund all children Reception to Y6 visiting a local theatre to watch a Christmas production.

Additionally, each year a different class takes part in our local singing festival Northwich Sings. Schools that are part of the Northwich Education Partnership learn songs and then have the opportunity to perform in a professional venue, in front of a paying audience alongside other schools. In previous years, we have taken Year 4 and performed using song and sign.

For all events, we try to keep the cost to families as low as possible; there may be a cost for transport for events off-site.

In the future

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

Going forward, we are planning to expand the opportunities for our pupils to perform in community venues. Our aim is to strengthen our links with our local communities to enable more of our pupils to experience performing for different audiences.

This year we are continuing to develop our school choir.

We have also joined Young Voices this year in order to provide the children with another amazing opportunity of performing to a large audience at the Manchester Arena.

It is also our aim to build relationships with the music departments in the other schools in Weaver Trust and look at opportunities for collaborative performances with their pupils.

Further information

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