

# Music development plan summary: The Gates Primary School and Nursery

## Overview

| Detail                                                                             | Information        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Academic year that this summary covers                                             | 2026-27            |
| Date this summary was published                                                    | October 2026       |
| Date this summary will be reviewed                                                 | October 2027       |
| Name of the school music lead                                                      | Mrs Richmond       |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) |                    |
| Name of local music hub                                                            | Greater Manchester |
| 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

Music is an integral part of life at The Gates Primary School and lessons are fun and engaging. Our headteacher is passionate about the positive impact Music can have on wellbeing, development, engagement in learning and fostering talents. The Arts are a pivotal part of our curriculum offer. Our pupils are given the chance to move their bodies, learn songs, play instruments, read graphic scores, reflect on and appreciate Music.

We aim for children to:

- Know and use key music vocabulary to describe and write their own music.
- Be composers by writing music and being inspired by the music of others.
- Learn key music skills by using tuned and untuned instruments.
- Perform music with confidence, individually and within groups.

- Learn the history of music, how it relates to culture and community, and identify key musicians both from the modern day and the past.

- Listen to music across a wide range of historical periods and genres.

Explicit music lessons are taught by class teachers and all children receive a minimum of 6 hours of music lessons each term.

The Gates Primary School uses the National Curriculum guidance documents, alongside resources from the BBC, Charanga and Musical Futures Online to teach music to a high standard across the school.

Music lessons include percussion, whole-class singing, group and solo performances using glockenspiels, chair drumming, djembe drumming rhythms, Bamboo Tamboo and listening to and responding to a range of musical genres and instruments. Children are taught about pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure. They learn to read from graphic scores and staff notation. The children are encouraged to be creative and compose their own responses to the learning taking place.

Children in EYFS have the opportunity to explore a range of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments. They also have regular exposure to traditional nursery rhymes; movement and rhythm through Squiggle While You Wiggle; wake and shake songs and musical brain breaks.

KS1 pupils have the opportunity to explore a range of untuned and tuned percussion instruments. They create short accompaniments to the songs they are learning.

KS2 pupils receive whole-class ensemble teaching on chair drumming, glockenspiels, Bamboo Tamboo and djembe drumming rhythms.

Upper Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to participate in music technology lessons led by an expert teacher from Bolton Music Service.

All children learn a range of songs in curriculum music lessons; learn to read either graphic scores or standard notation and listen to a wide range of musical genres.

Musical Showcase sessions take place termly to give the children the opportunity to perform their curriculum music to the school audience.

## **Part B: Extra-curricular music**

Guitar and keyboard tuition is offered as extra-curricular activities and these take place as one-to-one or small-group lessons. Bolton Music Service provides these lessons. The instrumentalists give performances in assemblies.

There is the opportunity for children to participate in a Rock Band after-school club: the instrumentation being electric guitar, bass guitar, drum-kit, keyboard and vocals. There is a performance for parents and carers to watch and it is recorded for viewing during the Music assembly.

The children can join the school choir. It participates in performances in the school, parish church, town centre and local care home. The children have the opportunity to join with other schools in the local community to perform songs from different periods.

Songs are often used in other lessons, such as Science, Languages or Mathematics to aid in memory retention and to promote the learning of pitch, beat and rhythm.

## Part C: Musical experiences

Every Monday during assembly, the children are introduced to a new piece of music. The period of composition, genre, instrumentation and the feelings the music creates are discussed.

The children attend Thursday Music assemblies where they watch and discuss one of the BBC Ten Pieces; read graphic scores and learn and practise songs in preparation for assemblies and external performances. Extra-curricular Music clubs also perform in these assemblies.

Visits are made to professional and amateur concerts such as the Halle Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall and the Mayor's Christmas Concert. We also have visits from amateur musicians such as the local, famous, Wingates Brass Band.

We participate in large-group singing opportunities and festivals such as 'Westhoughton Presents'.

Key Stage 1 and 2 classes participate in online workshops from Chetham's School of Music and the Royal Opera House.

## In the future

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

The school aims to vary large-scale participation e.g. Young Voices or Bolton Music Festival.

We will invest annually towards buying new instruments and to enhance curriculum experiences.