

Music development plan summary: Barcroft Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Eleanor Eden
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Walsall Music Education Hub and Service (WMEHS)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust

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 Barcroft Academy, all pupils receive a minimum of one hour of music education each week. Music lessons are taught by class teachers, who deliver a carefully planned and progressive curriculum, supported and overseen by the school's Music Lead.

The Music Lead is responsible for the strategic development of the subject, including curriculum design, progression, planning and the ongoing review of provision. Teachers are supported through clear medium-term planning and curriculum resources to ensure that music is delivered consistently and progressively across the academy.

Across each year group, pupils develop their knowledge, skills and understanding through the key strands of performing, composing and listening. Children are introduced to a range of instruments, with each year group having a particular focus instrument to support the development of practical musical skills and understanding.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, music forms an important part of the *Expressive Arts and Design* curriculum. Children regularly learn and perform nursery rhymes, number songs and familiar songs in small groups, as a whole class and, where appropriate, on a one-to-one basis with adults. They also have access to a range of instruments and sound-makers within continuous provision, enabling them to explore sounds, experiment creatively and develop their own musical ideas.

Barcroft Academy offers a bespoke music curriculum, developed and overseen by the school's Music Lead. The curriculum draws upon the Model Music Curriculum (MMC), alongside resources and approaches from Charanga, Kapow and Sing Up, ensuring a broad, balanced and progressive music education for all pupils.

Music planning, policy and progression documents are reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the curriculum remains current, coherent and responsive to the needs of our pupils.

Our full curriculum can be found here: www.barcroft.lhmat.com/Music

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.

Pupils in Years 3 to 6 have the opportunity to join the Barcroft Academy Choir, which rehearses weekly and is offered free of charge. The choir provides pupils with the opportunity to develop their vocal skills, confidence and enjoyment of singing, while working collaboratively with children from across the academy.

The Barcroft Choir performs regularly throughout the academic year, providing pupils with authentic opportunities to share their musical achievements with different audiences. Performances include Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust choir events, as well as community performances in local care homes.

Through these opportunities, pupils develop their musical skills alongside confidence, teamwork and a strong sense of belonging and community. The choir also enables pupils to represent Barcroft Academy positively within the wider community and experience the enjoyment and value of performing music together.

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.

Throughout the academic year, pupils have a wide range of opportunities to participate in musical performances both within the academy and in the wider community. These experiences enable pupils to develop their confidence, performance skills and enjoyment of music, while celebrating their musical achievements with different audiences.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, Nursery children learn a selection of songs which they perform as part of an annual music concert for parents and carers. Reception pupils develop their singing and performance skills through their annual Nativity production, learning and performing a range of songs alongside the story.

Across Years 1 to 6, pupils learn a Christmas song which is recorded and shared with parents and carers through the academy website and newsletter, providing all pupils with an opportunity to contribute to a whole-school musical performance.

Pupils also benefit from a range of Lighthouse Multi-Academy Trust musical events. These include an annual Choir Concert, where pupils perform alongside choirs from other schools within the MAT. Each school also hosts a talent show, with successful pupils progressing to a Trust-wide Grand Final, providing further opportunities for pupils to perform and celebrate their talents.

Throughout the year, pupils are introduced to a diverse range of musicians and musical styles. This includes influential and significant musicians from the past and present, female musicians, artists from different cultures and countries, songwriters, and music from television, film and West

End productions. This supports pupils in developing their musical knowledge and understanding while broadening their appreciation of different genres, traditions and musical careers.

The academy's annual International Week provides a further opportunity to explore music from around the world. Each year, pupils focus on a different country, exploring its musical traditions, styles and cultural influences. Pupils listen to and discuss music from the featured country and have opportunities to learn songs, explore instruments and perform pieces linked to the culture being studied. Countries explored include Italy, America, India, China, Japan, Russia, Australia and Mexico.

In the future

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

- Provide targeted CPD for class teachers to build confidence in delivering high-quality music lessons, including practical skills, singing, instrumental work and composition.
- Develop stronger links with local secondary schools to support transition, musical progression and opportunities for pupils to access specialist expertise, performances and instrumental experiences.
- Expand musical and performing arts after-school clubs, including opportunities to explore music from different cultures and genres.
- Explore affordable specialist instrumental tuition, such as guitar and violin.
- Develop links with external musicians, organisations and events, including Young Voices and Walsall music initiatives.
- Strengthen links across the Lighthouse MAT to increase opportunities for collaborative performances and shared musical experiences.
- Develop a strong musical culture at Barcroft through showcases, pupil performances, visiting musicians and celebrating musical achievement.
- Increase opportunities for pupils to experience diverse musical traditions and develop their cultural capital.

Further information (optional)

Further information and resources can be found on the following websites:

Walsall Music Education Hub and Service: <https://www.walmused.co.uk/>

SingUp: www.Singup.org