

Music development plan summary: Balcombe CE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Dunsby
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Sussex Music Hub
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, 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.

Our school curriculum map is available at:

<https://www.balcombeschool.co.uk/web/music/596744>

Classes receive a maximum of a 45 minutes music lesson every week. In some classes this is 45 minutes on alternate weeks.

Our current curriculum map shows our use of the Charanga music platform

<https://charanga.com/site/about-charanga/>

We use their English Model Music Curriculum Scheme as a basis for our curriculum. This music scheme is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3.

Classes sing in the majority of class lessons. The songs they sing may be accompanied by simple percussion instruments. Classes also have opportunities to

play a tuned instrument, usually a glockenspiel, during Charanga lessons across KS1 and KS2. This may be accompanying a song, with prescribed notes or it may include improvisation. Y4/5 children are taught in one class how to play the basic notes on a recorder and to read these on a music stave.

We have a new music lead who intends to contact the Sussex Music Hub to see what support it can offer our curriculum music.

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.

As a school we offer both keyboard and guitar tuition. The lessons are one-to-one or in small groups. These are organised through West Sussex Music. West Sussex Music has a bursary fund to offer financial assistance with group lessons, instrument hire and music centre membership for pupil premium children, children in care, young carers and refugees.

We also have a Rock Steady who come in and have five bands who work on songs together towards a termly performance.

Sussex Music Hub has recently appointed a cohort of Lead Schools for Music to help shape local strategy, strengthen peer learning, and ensure all children and young people can access musical opportunities, both in and out of school. We are fortunate to have a Lead School in a neighbouring village who already helps organise a local Big Sing event.

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.

Children across the school participate in a weekly singing assembly, where we rehearse and learn new songs for our daily assemblies.

EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children perform in a Nativity every year, which is based around a set of songs. KS2 children perform in a yearly Summer Performance which is always a musical.

We have been fortunate to have Ensemble Reza perform once a year in the past two academic years. This is now a firm favourite with the children and something we would hope to include this year. The children have opportunities to listen to instruments

being played, some try instruments and all children participate in their inclusive audience participation.

One class each year participates in a locally organised Big Sing event at a local school

We are part of an academy trust that includes a local private college who have pupils to Y13. They often participate in community work and we would like this to include a musical offering this year.

In the future

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

The music scheme we use – Charanga, has recently updated its curriculum to include a more creative element. We are trialling a couple of these components with a few classes to see how we can bring more creativity through improvisation and composition.

We have not had a singing group in school. It would be interesting to see if we could run an afterschool club via West Sussex Music.