

Music Development Plan Summary:

The Bridge School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sally Rowley
Name of school leadership team with responsibility for music (if different)	Sally Rowley
Name of local music hub	Services For Education
Name of other music education organisation(s)	Music of Life, Sounds of Intent

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

The Bridge School is a primary special day school located in Sutton Coldfield. All pupils on roll have a statement of special educational needs and an Educational Health and Care Plan. The school offers places for children with a range of needs. These can include physical difficulties, severe learning difficulties, profound multiple learning difficulties, visual impairment, hearing impairment and multisensory impairment.

Our pupils across all Key Stages have a timetable high quality curriculum music session each week. Music lessons are appropriately differentiated, for example pupils working on a multisensory curriculum will focus on listening, awareness of sound, cause and effect and an appropriate pace of lessons. For our pupils who are working towards a more formal curriculum, they will develop an understanding of music according to their varying musical abilities, interest, preferences and needs.

Pupils access to lessons across a range of instruments and voice, is supported by the school's Thematic curriculum and weekly access to the Music of Life sessions, which are run by an external provider. Pupils also have opportunities to listen to and immerse themselves in musical experiences during our Religious Education themed days, which are carefully planned for across the year.

The Bridge School has a school choir that has opportunity to perform termly at events including special celebrations and a yearly performance for parents at our academy pupil awards event. Our school choir is supported using Makaton signing because many of our pupils are non-verbal but still have access to signing and the use of instruments. The school makes use of its hall for rehearsals and individual practice.

Our music curriculum is informed by Sounds of Intent, a model of musical development that sets out how we all engage with music, from children in the early years to older people with dementia, from those with profound learning difficulties who are still learning to process sound. Sounds of Intent is not specific to a particular style or genre of music; it is meant for music teachers to help them understand how pupils engage with music in different ways and differentiate what they do according to pupils varying musical abilities, interest, preferences and needs.

The Bridge School has a partnership with Music of Life who visit us on a weekly basis. It's a place where the children can listen to, and interact with music and songs from around the world, and have opportunities to explore and learn to play different musical instruments. We also buy in the services of Sophie Gray (Services for Education) who delivers bespoke music lessons to classes on a weekly basis.

Our pupils have opportunities to:

Engage with music from around the world, make sounds using instruments, contextualised by the theme. For example using Kazoos with bees or wooden percussion in the forest.

Use sound makers to create multisensory activities, for example dropping sunflower seeds into metal bowls or bouncing barley on drums.

Sing/listen to songs to accompany the action, for example improvising a song describing each child's participation.

Focus listening to the sound environment, for example recordings of seagulls on the beach or the music of Steve Reich accompanying busy bees.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Lunch time music clubs open to all pupils include movement and dance sessions and instrument exploration for our sensory learners. All classes have access to a range of musical instruments. We share links to digital resources for those pupils keen to engage with music at home.

We encourage our parents to engage with out of school provision created specifically for Birmingham special schools, for example, Midlands Art Centre's MAC Makes Music, that include Inclusive Musical Practice with primary aged children and Inclusive Ensembles'.

Part C: Musical Experiences

Planned Music experiences for the academic year include:

Our school has strong music links with Services for Education and Music of Life. We also have weekly signed singing assemblies. Parents and carers are fully supportive of music making and we have a good turn-out of parents/carers at productions. Music is played and enjoyed by children as part of their music curriculum and music is supported to engage pupils during stories and activities to develop early listening skills.

Special musical performances are delivered by pupils which includes special assemblies and seasonal performances. The school choir also performs to pupils, staff and parents during our academy award show.

We invite a music and drama group to perform a musical story once a year, the event includes all our pupils having opportunity to interact with and learn simple repeated verses and rhymes.

In The Future

The school is further developing its curriculum provision. Teachers have input into the delivery and planning of timetabled weekly sessions. The Music Lead is responsible for monitoring the quality of the music curriculum and for supporting with the teaching of Music across school. The development of our curriculum provision is ongoing. The school has a strong link with our local music services to help ensure the teaching of music remains of a high standard.

