

Music development plan summary: Darwen Aldridge Sudell Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	03.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	01.09.27
Name of the school music lead	Sarah Baker
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tom Arrandale
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Service

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.

Our aims for Music are driven by the Aldridge Operating Norms. Our standard is excellence; we lead by example and believe that every moment matters.

Our curriculum is underpinned by five key drivers. We want our children to experience a curriculum that is rich in knowledge and skills, experiences, culture, career readiness and the Aldridge Attributes.

At Darwen Aldridge Sudell Primary School, we believe that music is the heartbeat of our school. Music brings children together, provides a powerful means of self-expression and gives every child the opportunity to experience creativity, enjoyment and success. We want our children to understand that music is for everyone and to develop the confidence to sing, perform, compose, listen and respond.

Music is a universal language and one of the highest forms of creativity. Our high-quality music curriculum aims to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and nurture their talents as musicians. Through this, children develop their self-confidence, creativity, resilience and sense of achievement.

As pupils progress through school, they build their musical knowledge and skills and develop an increasingly critical engagement with music. Children have opportunities

to perform, compose, listen and respond to music from a wide range of styles, traditions, cultures and historical periods.

Our mission is to provide the Aldridge Advantage for all, leaving no-one behind. We are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of background, prior experience or starting point, has access to high quality musical experiences and encounters that they may not otherwise encounter.

Aims

In line with the National Curriculum for Music, we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of significant composers and musicians.
- Learn to sing and use their voices, create and compose music independently and collaboratively, and have opportunities to learn and play musical instruments.
- Have opportunities to use music technology appropriately and develop their understanding of how technology can be used to create, record and manipulate music.
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated through the inter-related dimensions of pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure, alongside appropriate musical notation.
- Develop confidence, creativity and enjoyment through regular opportunities to make and perform music with others.
- Build the knowledge and skills needed to support future musical learning and progression.

Our Curriculum Approach

Music is taught across school through the Charanga music scheme, which provides a progressive curriculum and supports children in developing their musical knowledge and skills as they move through each year group.

Children receive regular curriculum music lessons which incorporate singing, listening, performing, composing, improvising and musicianship. Learning is carefully sequenced so that children revisit and build upon previous knowledge and skills.

Children are exposed to a broad and diverse range of music, including music from different cultures, traditions, genres and historical periods. Musical vocabulary is introduced progressively, and children are encouraged to listen carefully, discuss what they hear and express their own responses to music.

Music is also used purposefully across the wider curriculum, where appropriate, to enrich children's learning, support memory and recall, encourage creativity and make meaningful connections between subjects.

Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

A key element of our curriculum offer is Whole Class Instrumental Tuition (WOP). This ensures that children have the opportunity to experience high-quality instrumental and practical music-making as part of their school experience.

Our current KS2 provision includes:

- **Year 4 – Ukulele**, delivered in partnership with Lancashire Music Service
- **Year 5 – Samba**
- **Year 6 – Music Technology**

Through WOP tuition, children develop practical musicianship alongside important wider skills such as listening, concentration, teamwork, perseverance and confidence. Providing this tuition as part of our curriculum ensures that all children have access to instrumental music-making, including those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn an instrument outside school.

Singing

Singing has an important place within school life. We hold weekly whole-school singing assemblies, giving children regular opportunities to experience the enjoyment of singing together.

Through singing, children develop their vocal skills, musical understanding, listening skills and confidence. Singing together also contributes to our sense of school community and belonging.

Children experience a varied repertoire of songs and are encouraged to recognise singing and music as something that can bring people together and promote happiness and wellbeing.

Curriculum Development

We continue to review and develop our music curriculum to ensure that it is ambitious, progressive and accessible to all pupils.

We have:

- Embedded Charanga as our core curriculum resource to support consistency and progression across school.
- Mapped musical knowledge and skills across year groups to ensure clear progression.
- Developed our Whole Class Instrumental Tuition offer across KS2.
- Established weekly whole-school singing assemblies.
- Increased children's exposure to a diverse range of musical styles, genres, cultures and traditions.
- Developed opportunities for children to use and experience music technology.
- Continued to develop partnerships with specialist music providers, including Lancashire Music Service.
- Increased opportunities for children to experience live music and performance, both within and beyond school.
- Continued to raise the profile of music across the curriculum and wider life of the school.

Through our curriculum music provision, we aim for every child to leave Sudell with positive musical experiences, developing the knowledge, skills and confidence to participate in and enjoy music throughout their lives.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Darwen Aldridge Sudell Primary School, we believe that children's musical experiences should extend beyond their classroom lessons. We are committed to providing a range of co-curricular and enrichment opportunities that allow children to develop their confidence, creativity and enjoyment of music.

We recognise that some of our children may have limited access to musical experiences outside school. We therefore aim to provide opportunities that are accessible and inclusive, enabling all children to discover their talents, develop new interests and experience the enjoyment of making music with others.

Choir and Singing Opportunities

Children in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to take part in our after-school choir and singing club. This provides children with an interest in singing and performing with additional opportunities to develop their vocal skills, learn a varied repertoire and build their confidence.

Singing is also an important part of wider school life, with opportunities for children to sing together during assemblies, celebrations and special occasions.

Workshops and Enrichment

Throughout the academic year, children will have opportunities to participate in a variety of musical workshops and enrichment activities in addition to their curriculum music lessons.

These experiences will enable children to explore different instruments, musical styles and ways of creating music. Where possible, children will have opportunities to work alongside specialist musicians and music practitioners, helping to broaden their musical experiences and raise aspirations.

Opportunities to Perform

Children will be given regular opportunities to perform to an audience within school, including their peers, staff and families.

We believe that performing is an important part of children's musical development. It gives purpose to their learning and helps children to develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and a sense of achievement.

Children will be encouraged to celebrate their musical achievements and share their developing skills with others in a supportive environment.

Developing Musical Interests

We aim to recognise and encourage children who demonstrate a particular enthusiasm or talent for music and provide opportunities for them to develop their interests further.

Through choir, workshops, enrichment activities and additional music-making opportunities, we want children to recognise that music is something they can continue to enjoy and develop beyond their classroom lessons.

Above all, our co-curricular provision reflects our belief that music is for everyone. We want every child to have opportunities to participate, develop their confidence, express themselves and experience the happiness that making music together can bring.

Part C: Musical experiences

We are passionate about providing children with memorable musical experiences that extend beyond their curriculum lessons. We believe that performing, watching and experiencing music together helps to build confidence, raise aspirations and create a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Singing and Performing in School

Children take part in weekly whole-school singing assemblies, providing regular opportunities to sing together, develop their confidence and experience the enjoyment that comes from making music as a school community.

Throughout the year, children have opportunities to perform to their peers, staff and families through assemblies, celebrations and special events.

Our annual Christmas performances are an important part of our school calendar and include:

- **KS1 Nativity**, giving our younger children the opportunity to sing, act and perform for an audience.
- **KS2 Carol Concert**, bringing children, staff and families together through singing and music to celebrate Christmas.
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Wider Performance Opportunities

We are committed to giving our children opportunities to perform beyond the school environment and to experience the excitement of being part of large-scale musical events.

*Throughout the year, children may have opportunities to participate in events including **Young Voices, Raise the Roof and Let's Go Sing**, alongside other performance opportunities that become available.*

These experiences allow children to perform in exciting venues alongside other young people and musicians, helping to develop their confidence, teamwork and aspirations while creating memories that can last a lifetime.

Experiencing Live Music

Where opportunities arise, we aim to enable children to experience live and professional music, whether through visiting musicians and performers, workshops, concerts or visits to musical events.

Experiencing musicians and performers first-hand helps children to see where music can take them, introduces them to different instruments, genres and styles, and can inspire them to explore their own musical interests.

Celebrating Music Together

We believe music has a unique ability to bring people together. Through assemblies, concerts, performances, celebrations and special events, music contributes to the culture and identity of our school.

Our aim is for every child to leave Sudell having experienced the excitement of performing, the enjoyment of being part of a musical community and the opportunity to create positive and lasting musical memories.

At Sudell, we want children not only to learn about music, but to experience, enjoy and celebrate it.

In the future

We are excited to continue developing our music provision and creating even more opportunities for our children to enjoy, experience and succeed in music.

Our key priorities are to further develop our music curriculum, increase opportunities for children to sing, play instruments and perform, and continue to grow our choir and other musical groups. We want to provide children with a wide range of exciting musical experiences, including workshops, performances and opportunities to work with musicians and other organisations.

We will continue to celebrate music from different cultures, traditions and genres, ensuring that all children see music as something they can enjoy and be part of. We

also aim to identify and nurture musical talent, while ensuring that opportunities are accessible to every child.

Ultimately, we want music to have a strong and visible place within school life, building children's confidence, creativity and enjoyment and creating musical experiences and memories that will stay with them long after they leave Sudell.