

St Barnabas CE Primary School

MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN | 2026-2027

Headteacher: Emma Grice

Music Lead: Kate Huston

Academy Trust: The Fioretti Trust

Next Review Due: July 2027

Local Music Hub: Services for Education (Birmingham)

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

St Barnabas CE Primary School is part of The Fioretti Trust, a multi-academy trust of eight Church of England primary schools serving communities across Birmingham. This Music Development Plan has been written in alignment with the Department for Education's National Plan for Music Education, The Power of Music to Change Lives (2022), and the associated DfE School Music Development Plan guidance and summary template (May 2024).

The plan sets out how St Barnabas will deliver high-quality music provision across three interlinked areas: curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences and opportunities. It reflects the school's commitment to ensuring that every child, regardless of background or prior experience, has access to meaningful, progressive, and enjoyable musical education.

Music is embedded in the life of St Barnabas. The school benefits from a structured and well-resourced offer that combines a nationally recognised curriculum scheme (Charanga), whole-class ensemble teaching in partnership with Birmingham Music Service, co-curricular provision from Rock Steady Music School, peripatetic instrumental tuition, a thriving Key Stage 2 choir, regular performance opportunities, and annual partnerships with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and Young Voices.

SECTION 1: CURRICULUM MUSIC

1.1 Curriculum Scheme: Charanga

St Barnabas uses Charanga as its primary curriculum scheme across all year groups from EYFS to Year 6. Charanga provides a sequenced, unit-based programme aligned to the National Curriculum for Music (2014) and the Model Music Curriculum (2021). Each unit integrates the interrelated dimensions of music, specifically pulse, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture and structure, ensuring that pupils develop musical vocabulary and conceptual understanding progressively across year groups.

Charanga units are taught by class teachers, supported by Kate Huston as Music Lead, who provides planning support, subject knowledge coaching, and monitoring of delivery quality across the school. The Music Lead carries out regular learning walks and book scrutinies to evaluate the quality and sequencing of curriculum music.

Key features of Charanga provision at St Barnabas:

- All year groups receive timetabled curriculum music each week, working towards the DfE expectation of at least one hour per week
- Units are organised around a central song or musical style, embedding listening, singing, playing, improvising and composing in each lesson
- Assessment is embedded throughout Charanga units; the Music Lead reviews pupil progress termly and reports to the headteacher and governing body
- Musical vocabulary is explicitly taught and displayed in classrooms; pupils are expected to use correct terminology when discussing and evaluating music
- Charanga's online platform (Rock Steady Online, accessed school-wide) supplements classroom delivery, giving all pupils and staff access to musical resources, tracks and backing accompaniments

1.2 Whole-Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET): Flute, Year 4

In partnership with Birmingham Music Service, all Year 4 pupils receive whole-class ensemble teaching (WCET) in flute, delivered by a specialist peripatetic teacher from the music service. This provision runs for one academic year and fulfils the DfE expectation that schools provide access to lessons across a range of instruments.

WCET sessions are timetabled weekly and are in addition to the Charanga curriculum music lesson. Pupils are taught to hold and care for their instrument, produce a good tone, read basic notation, and play as part of an ensemble. By the end of Year 4, pupils are expected to play a repertoire of pieces with increasing accuracy of pitch and rhythm. The most able and enthusiastic pupils are identified for onward progression to individual or small-group peripatetic tuition.

Year Group: Year 4 (all pupils)

Provider: Birmingham Music Service (peripatetic specialist)

Instrument: Flute

Frequency: Weekly (timetabled)

Progression Route: Identified pupils offered continued peripatetic lessons from Year 5

SECTION 2: CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC

DfE Expectation: Schools should provide a range of co-curricular musical opportunities including vocal and instrumental ensembles, individual and small-group lessons, and opportunities for pupils to perform and progress beyond the classroom curriculum.

2.1 Rock Steady Music School

Rock Steady Music School provides whole-school co-curricular provision at St Barnabas. Rock Steady specialists come into school to lead band sessions in which pupils learn to play drums, bass guitar, lead guitar, keyboards or vocals, working together in small groups to perform full songs in the style of popular music. This model is highly effective at engaging pupils who may not be motivated by traditional instrumental tuition models.

The Rock Steady Online platform is available to all pupils and staff across the school, enabling independent music-making and exploration outside of timetabled sessions. This extends access to musical learning beyond the school day and across all year groups.

Key features of Rock Steady provision:

- Rock Steady specialists visit school weekly to deliver band sessions
- Pupils learn a range of instruments including drums, guitar, bass guitar, keyboards and vocals
- Sessions culminate in performances to parents and peers, building pupil confidence and providing meaningful performance experience
- The Rock Steady Online platform is accessible to all pupils school-wide, supporting independent musical learning
- Rock Steady provides its own progression and achievement framework; the Music Lead liaises with Rock Steady to ensure this is visible within the school's broader music offer

2.2 Peripatetic Instrumental Tuition: Guitar

St Barnabas offers peripatetic guitar lessons for pupils from Year 3 upwards. Lessons are delivered by a qualified peripatetic teacher and are offered as individual or small-group tuition. Guitar tuition provides a clear progression pathway from the whole-school Rock Steady offer, enabling pupils who have developed an interest in guitar through Rock Steady to pursue individual tuition and work towards recognised grade examinations if desired.

The Music Lead maintains a record of all pupils receiving peripatetic tuition and monitors uptake across year groups and pupil groups, with a particular focus on ensuring that disadvantaged pupils are not excluded from participation due to financial barriers. The school will explore subsidy arrangements where appropriate.

2.3 Key Stage 2 Choir

St Barnabas has an established Key Stage 2 choir, open to all pupils in Years 3 to 6. The choir meets weekly and is led by Kate Huston, Music Lead. It provides pupils with the opportunity to develop vocal technique, part-singing, sight-reading, and performance confidence in a structured but enjoyable environment.

The choir performs at the Christmas music concert, the end-of-year summer concert, and at Young Voices (see Section 3). The choir also represents the school at wider trust and community events where appropriate. Membership of the choir is actively promoted to all pupils and is not selective; all pupils who wish to participate are welcomed.

Participation data is monitored by the Music Lead. Where pupils from disadvantaged groups or with SEND are underrepresented, targeted invitation and support will be implemented.

2.4 Singing Assembly

The whole school participates in a regular singing assembly. Singing assemblies provide the opportunity for collective music-making, reinforcing repertoire, developing confidence in singing in a large group, and building a shared musical culture across the school community. The singing assembly is led by Kate Huston and is supported by class teachers. Repertoire is varied and includes songs linked to the school's Christian ethos, seasonal and liturgical material, popular songs and songs from the co-curricular programme.

Note on curriculum time: In accordance with DfE guidance and the Ofsted Subject Research Review for Music (2021), the singing assembly does not count towards the weekly curriculum music entitlement, as it serves the function of collective worship and whole-school community. Curriculum music is delivered separately through timetabled lessons.

2.5 Boom Whackers

Boom whackers (chromatic tuned percussion tubes) are used across the school as a flexible and inclusive resource for musical learning. They are deployed in curriculum lessons to teach pitch, melody, harmony and rhythm, and are particularly effective in enabling whole-class ensemble experiences for younger pupils and those at earlier stages of instrumental development. Boom whackers are low barrier to access and support the principle that every child can make music.

SECTION 3: MUSICAL EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

DfE Expectation: All pupils should have the opportunity to attend and participate in live musical performances, both in school and beyond. Schools should ensure a termly performance opportunity as a minimum and should seek to connect pupils with professional musicians and the broader musical world.

Performance / Event	Who	When	Lead
Christmas Music Concert	Whole school	Autumn Term	Kate Huston
Summer Concert	Whole school	Summer Term	Kate Huston
Rock Steady Showcase	Rock Steady pupils	Each term	Rock Steady / Kate Huston
Young Voices	KS2 Choir	Spring Term (NEC Birmingham)	Kate Huston
Year 6 End-of-Year Production	Year 6	Summer Term	Year 6 Team / Kate Huston
CBSO Visit KS1	Year 1 and Year 2	Annual (Autumn/Spring)	Class Teachers / Kate Huston
CBSO Visit KS2	Year 3-6	Annual (Autumn/Spring)	Class Teachers / Kate Huston
Singing Assembly Performances	Whole school	Regular, throughout year	Kate Huston

3.1 Christmas Music Concert

An annual Christmas music concert is held in the Autumn Term, bringing together the whole school community. The concert features performances by the Key Stage 2 choir, class performances drawing on Charanga repertoire, Rock Steady band performances, and instrumental solos or small ensembles where appropriate. The concert is performed to an audience of parents, carers and the wider school community.

3.2 Summer Concert

The summer concert showcases the breadth of musical learning across the year. All year groups contribute a performance, demonstrating progression from EYFS through to Year 6. The summer concert serves as an important point of celebration and reflection, and as a public demonstration of the quality and range of music at St Barnabas. Pupils from peripatetic programmes and the choir also perform.

3.3 Young Voices

St Barnabas participates annually in Young Voices, the world's largest school choir event. The Key Stage 2 choir attends the event, which takes place at the Resorts World Arena (Birmingham), performing alongside thousands of children from schools across the region, accompanied by professional musicians, vocalists and special guest artists. Young Voices provides pupils with an exceptional large-scale performance experience and connects them to the professional music world in a meaningful way.

Preparation for Young Voices begins in the Autumn Term, using the official Young Voices repertoire and resources. The Music Lead ensures that participation is actively promoted and that financial barriers are addressed where necessary to enable all eligible pupils to attend.

3.4 CBSO Partnership

St Barnabas has an established annual partnership with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils attend CBSO schools concerts at Symphony Hall, Birmingham each academic year. These concerts are specifically designed for primary-age pupils and provide a high-quality experience of live orchestral music. Pupils are prepared in advance by the Music Lead, who introduces the repertoire and instruments they will hear, providing curriculum context and maximising the educational impact of the visit.

The CBSO partnership supports the DfE expectation that pupils experience a broad musical culture and connects the school's music provision to the wider creative and cultural life of Birmingham. The Music Lead documents the visit as part of the school's evidence of musical experiences and uses it as a stimulus for listening and appraising work back in school.

3.5 Year 6 End-of-Year Production

Each year, Year 6 pupils perform a full end-of-year production to the school community and parents. The production involves acting, singing and, where possible, live musical accompaniment. It represents the culmination of pupils' primary education and draws on the musical skills and confidence built across their time at St Barnabas. The production is planned and rehearsed from the Spring Term, with performance in the Summer Term. Leadership of the production is shared between the Year 6 class teachers and the Music Lead.

SECTION 4: DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2026-2027

The following priorities have been identified for 2026-2027 through self-evaluation against the DfE National Plan for Music Education (2022) and the DfE summary template expectations. Progress against these priorities will be reviewed half-termly by the Music Lead and annually by the headteacher.

No.	Priority	Action	Lead	Timescale
1	Ensure curriculum music meets the DfE expectation of at least one hour per week across all year groups	Audit current timetables; work with headteacher to protect music time; provide evidence to governors	Kate Huston / Sharleen Johnson	Autumn Term 2026
2	Strengthen assessment and tracking of pupil progress in music	Implement Charanga end-of-unit assessments consistently; create a whole-school music progress tracker; report to governors annually	Kate Huston	Spring Term 2027
3	Increase uptake of co-curricular music among disadvantaged pupils	Review participation data against pupil premium register; implement targeted invitation; explore subsidy for Young Voices transport and Rock Steady	Kate Huston / SBM	Ongoing from Autumn 2026
4	Publish Music Development Plan summary on school website	Adapt and publish DfE summary template on school website; update annually	Kate Huston / Office Manager	September 2026
5	Develop WCET progression pathways from Year 4 flute	Identify highest-attaining pupils post-WCET; offer continuation lessons with Birmingham Music Service from Year 5; track progression	Kate Huston / Birmingham Music Service	Summer Term 2027 review
6	Strengthen CPD offer for class teachers delivering Charanga	Organise at least one Charanga training session per year; Music Lead to model lessons in at least two year groups; share resources via Teams	Kate Huston	Spring Term 2027
7	Ensure music provision is inclusive for pupils with SEND	Audit accessibility of all music activities; liaise with SENDCO Saira Parveen to identify adaptations;	Kate Huston / Saira Parveen	Ongoing

No.	Priority	Action	Lead	Timescale
		embed boom whackers and Charanga adaptive resources		

SECTION 5: STAFFING, PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING

5.1 Staffing

Role	Name / Provider	Responsibility
Music Lead	Kate Huston	Overall leadership of music; curriculum oversight; choir; singing assembly; performance events; WCET liaison; CPD
Headteacher	Sharleen Johnson	Strategic oversight; governance reporting; resource allocation
WCET Specialist	Birmingham Music Service (peripatetic)	Year 4 whole-class flute teaching
Peripatetic Teacher	Visiting specialist	Guitar tuition (individual and small group, Year 3 upwards)
Rock Steady Specialist	Rock Steady Music School	Band sessions; Rock Steady Online platform access
Class Teachers	All year groups	Delivery of Charanga curriculum units; singing assembly support

5.2 External Partners

Partner	Provision
Birmingham Music Service (Services for Education)	WCET: Year 4 flute; peripatetic teacher placement; CPD access; Music Education Hub support
Rock Steady Music School	Whole-school band sessions; Rock Steady Online platform for all pupils
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO)	Annual KS1 and KS2 schools concerts at Symphony Hall
Young Voices	Annual large-scale choir event at Resorts World Arena, Birmingham
Charanga Music Education	Primary curriculum scheme, online resources and teacher support platform

5.3 Funding

Music provision at St Barnabas is funded through a combination of the school's core budget, the Pupil Premium allocation (where activities benefit eligible pupils), and external partnership arrangements. Costs associated with Birmingham Music Service WCET are met through the school's music service agreement. Rock Steady operates through a parental subscription model supplemented by school support for eligible pupils. Young Voices costs, including coach transport, are met by a combination of parental contribution and school subsidy for Pupil Premium pupils.

The Music Lead produces an annual music budget proposal for the headteacher, setting out costs for all provision areas and identifying funding sources. This is reviewed alongside the school development plan cycle.

SECTION 6: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Music Lead, Kate Huston, is responsible for ongoing monitoring of music provision. This includes:

- Half-termly review of curriculum coverage across year groups using Charanga tracking
- Annual audit of pupil participation in co-curricular music, cross-referenced against disadvantaged pupil data
- Learning walks in music lessons each term
- Annual pupil voice exercise on music (questionnaire and focus group)
- Annual report to the headteacher and Local Advisory Board on music provision, progress against priorities and quality of outcomes
- Annual update and publication of the DfE Music Development Plan summary on the school website

The headteacher, Sharleen Johnson, receives a music update as a standing item on the termly headteacher report to the Local Advisory Board. A named link governor holds responsibility for music as part of the curriculum and standards portfolio.

This Music Development Plan is reviewed annually. The next review is due: July 2027.

Any significant changes to provision during the year will be noted and updated by the Music Lead in consultation with the headteacher.

This plan should be read alongside the school's broader School Development Plan and the Fioretti Trust strategic framework.

SIGN-OFF

Role	Name	Date
Music Lead	Kate Huston	
Headteacher	Sharleen Johnson	
Deputy CEO / Director of Education	Emma Grice	