

Music development plan summary: Lancasterian Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	30/9/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	30/9/26
Name of the school music lead	Tim Bentley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Haringey Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Haringey Creates

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 school's music curriculum can be found on our website. Each child has at least an hour of music lessons every week provided by our music specialist Tim Bentley. These lessons happen during the class teacher's PPA non-contact time.

- Lancasterian's school music curriculum is informed by the statutory guidance from the National Curriculum for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 and was created in collaboration with Peter Desmond, the now former head of Haringey Music.
- Every lesson provides the opportunity for all children to learn to sing or develop their skills on percussion, keyboards and xylophones, or even develop their skills on an instrument they are learning to play outside of the class, such as guitar or violin. Each lesson follows a particular structure, starting with listening to and appraising a piece of music in that specific genre. Most lessons include

opportunities for children to play as an ensemble, improvise and even compose their own melodies. In year 3, the children learn to play the ukulele for a term, in Year 4 the children learn to play the violin for the whole year and in year 5 they learn to play the guitar for a term. In year 6 they learn to play as part of a whole class samba drumming ensemble.

- The school works in close collaboration with the Haringey Music Service who provide one-to-one teachers for instruments such as guitar, piano and drums, as well as whole class violin lessons for children in Year 4 (continuing in small groups in Year 5 and 6).
- We are making the first steps to becoming a music hub, with our instruments being lent out to local schools in need of equipment. We have provided instruments for whole class lessons including glockenspiels, ukuleles and keyboards. We are currently collaborating with the music service to provide lessons in steel pans at our school for students around across the borough.

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.

There are many opportunities for children at Lancasterian to develop their musical skills outside of what's taught during their music lessons. Through the Haringey Music Service, we have one-to-one tuition in piano, guitar and drumming. These lessons are available for children of all ages. In Year 4, every child learns to play the violin for one year and has the option to continue into Year 5 and 6.

We have extra-curricular clubs for all ages; We have a samba drumming group, a classical guitar group, a school choir for children from Year 1 – Year 6, a small orchestra/band ensemble, and a Music Tech club for children to hone their composition skills using GarageBand.

In the last two years, we have offered an Easter and Summer music club during the school holidays, run by our specialist teacher Tim Bentley. This runs for 1 week in Easter and two weeks in the summer, with children of all ages taking part in samba drumming, playing in a band and composing their own music on ipads with performances at the end of each week to their families. We loan children guitars and ukuleles during term time if they are having lessons.

- Instruments that are taught through Haringey Music Service are offered for free to families who are eligible for Free School Meals.

- Our clubs are offered at a very low rate of £40 per term. The holiday clubs have spaces for a few families at a reduced rate according to affordability and payment can also be made via Child Tax Credits.
- We have a rehearsal space for children who want to practice individually or as a group.
- We offer music therapy sessions for children with particular needs such as autism, or those who are going through emotional trauma or have behavioural needs

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.

Lancasterian Primary School offers musical events and opportunities above and beyond most primary schools.

Singing/music assemblies happen every Tuesday morning for KS2 children and every Thursday morning for KS1. These assemblies provide the opportunity for children to learn new songs together and celebrate being part of their school community. They are often celebratory and uplifting events. These assemblies are also used to give a space for children to perform what they've been learning in their class music lessons. At the end of each curriculum topic, there will usually be a chance to share and perform what they've learned to their families and fellow students. Occasionally, children will perform something they have practiced in a school club, or as part of their one-to-one instrument tuition.

The children in Year 4 perform three violin concerts a year, together with any continuing violin players in Year 5 and 6. The violin players also perform at the annual Haringey Music Service concerts every summer at the prestigious Alexandra Palace.

At the end of each school year, there is our annual 'Lancs Music Festival'. This is the time when all the musicians in our school take to the stage to perform for their peers and families. The Lancs Samba Drummers, our school choir, our school band, plus all the children learning to play guitar, piano or drums show off their talents.

The Samba drummers and school choir regularly perform at events around the borough and beyond. They take part in the annual 'Hope in Tottenham Christmas Carols' event at London Academy of Excellence, and are often invited to be the entertainment at prestigious inter-school events or even open evenings for other schools, such as Rowland Hills' annual summer BBQ. The choir takes part in the

annual 'Sing Up' festival. Both groups perform for our families at community events like Fireworks Night, Christmas and Summer Fayres and the International Evening.

Our choir consists of 25-30 children from years 1-6, whilst the Samba drummers are a group of 10 from Years 1-6.

The violin concerts consist of around 80-90 performers, whilst the summer 'Music Festival' often includes over 150 performers of all ages.

Our school music trips are usually whole year groups of 50-60 children at a time.

We have now made it mandatory for every child to experience either an in-school music workshop/performance by professional musicians (such as the East African band Touki performing for Year 6 this year) or go on a trip to watch a concert or musical theatre show in one of London's numerous concert or theatrical venues.

These trips are heavily subsidised by the school, using money made from the numerous music clubs we offer at Lancasterian. We often apply reduced rates for pupil premium children and families eligible for free school meals.

We have a strong partnership with the Haringey Music Service and get involved in many of their events. This includes their biennial concert at The Royal Albert Hall. We also send our most talented children to the Haringey Music Service after school groups such as Haringey Vox or the instrumental group clubs. We have recently teamed up with Haringey Creates and are beginning to get involved with the training days and events they offer.

Until recently, we had also teamed up with the Kidz Concert Company, a Lottery funded group of classically trained musicians who would put on a workshop/concert every term for our Year 4 students learning the violin.

In the future

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

At Lancasterian Primary School, we are always looking to improve upon the outstanding music provision we provide.

Every curriculum subject including music, has undergone a process of further development we have labelled 'The Big Inclusion Curriculum'. This has made our music leader Tim Bentley focus on ways we can make our music curriculum even more inclusive for the demographic of our community and to provide greater cultural capital for our children. This includes:-

- The development of composition skills in every year group to a greater depth.

- The re-introduction of a school band/orchestra, providing further opportunities for our musicians to collaborate and perform.
- Greater emphasis on using songs from the cultures most prevalent in our school as part of the curriculum.

We will also be organising an inter-school music festival into our annual events in the summer term, where children from other schools will come and perform together at a community event.

Further information

We work very closely with the Haringey Music Service (<https://new.haringey.gov.uk/schools-learning/haringey-music-service>), Haringey Creates (<https://haringeycreates.com/>) and Music Mark (<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>) to provide opportunities for our children in music and performing arts, as well as training and development for our music lead. Our specialist music leader Tim Bentley is also part of the Haringey Music Teachers Alliance, that meet regularly to network and share new ideas to improve our provision further.

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.