

Music development plan summary: Edith Cavell Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	1 st December 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	James Mortimer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Heather Cooke
Name of local music hub	Bedford
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music for Bedford Borough

This is a summary of how Edith Cavell Primary 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

We aim to provide every child with high quality music experiences which engage, inspire and develop them as musicians. We design increasingly challenging opportunities for all children to sing, play, perform, compose, improvise and listen to a variety of music styles and genres as they progress as musicians. We aim for every child to recognise that music is all around us, developing a range of musical skills, knowledge and an understanding and love of music during their time at Edith Cavell Primary School.

Music lessons are taught weekly in every class throughout the school. Children in pre-school regularly take part in singing and rhythmic games and explore a large range of musical instruments from different cultures. Moving into Reception, they develop confidence to speak, sing and perform in a familiar group and to audiences within school, with a focus on investigating how different sounds are made from musical instruments both tuned and untuned. In KS1 and KS2, Music lessons are taught predominantly through the use of the music platform Charanga, or through instrumental units delivered by trained music specialists from our local music hub [Music for Bedford Borough \(MfBB\)](#), whom we work closely with. From KS1 and KS2, children at Edith Cavell receive whole-class ensemble tuition each year, alternating between teacher led and specialist led; with recorder, glockenspiel, J-Sax and steel pans being some of the instruments taught. All units from Charanga, or provided by MfBB, support the four core areas set out by the Model Music Curriculum; singing, listening, composing and performing. These lessons

are sequential, building on previously learnt skills and deepen the children's subject knowledge. Singing forms an integral part of the children's musical practise through the Charanga lessons, regularly learning and performing a variety of well-known songs from different musical genres or new songs developed by the platform. They will develop their pitch, intonation and ensemble work through this medium. During music lessons at Edith Cavell, children are given the opportunities to:

- enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles
- understand and explore how sounds are made, and how music is produced by a variety of instruments
- develop imagination and creativity
- express ideas and opinions about music and accurately describe features of the music that they hear
- build a variety sense of pulse and rhythm
- develop an appreciation of the richness of our musical heritage
- understand a range of musical vocabulary and theory
- develop the interrelated skills of composition, improvisation, performance, appreciation and theory
- enjoy a wide range of songs and sing in tune and in time
- develop positive attitudes and experience success and satisfaction in 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.

At Edith Cavell we believe that musical opportunities must extend beyond the classroom and children should have the opportunity to perform and work in a variety of musical capacities. All children take part in whole school singing on a weekly basis and is themed to cover the requirements of the Music Curriculum and we use singing to celebrate individual achievements through celebration assemblies each Friday morning.

Weekly 20-30-minute peripatetic lessons for a variety of instruments offer individualized or small-group instruction, enabling students to develop technical skills with the guidance of specialist teachers. Parents can select group, paired or individual lessons from the Bedford Music Service and subsidized rates for lessons and instrument hire is available and paid for by the school based on Pupil Premium or looked after status to allow equal opportunities for all. Teaching is provided by our local music hub and instruments can be hired to support home practise. More information can be found [here](#).

The school choir provides an inclusive opportunity for children to collaborate, refine their vocal abilities, and perform at both school and local events. End-of-term class performances give all children an opportunity to shine in front of an audience of peers and parents. Additionally, we signpost opportunities from the local music hub, ensuring students can access external workshops, festivals, and advanced training, broadening their musical horizons beyond the school setting.

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.

We feel passionately at Edith Cavell about offering the student body chances to experience a variety of musical events during their time at the school. Among the class and school performances detailed in the previous section, children attending the choir can perform at local festivals throughout the year including the Bedford Christmas Tree Festival. Local musical groups are invited yearly to perform for the children such as Gigs4Kids, The North Beds Youth Chamber Orchestra and Specialist teachers from the Bedford Music Hub. Where possible, Year 5 and 6 children are invited to watch local secondary school musical performances, opening their horizons to the wonderful opportunities ahead of them. Children who have been receiving instrument lessons in school from specialist teachers are invited to play at large ensemble events such as the annual Bedford Fiddle Fiesta. In previous years, children who show dedication and talent in music have been invited to experience local music festivals, meeting and workshopping with classical composers. We put on annual musical showcases, which gives the children learning instruments in peripatetic lessons, the school choir, and classes learning an instrument a chance to perform for an audience. This event is free for parents and carers and is also attended by the rest of the school. The school works closely with local venues and organisations to ensure opportunities aren't missed with regards to musical experiences.

In the future

Edith Cavell is committed to developing the music provision offered and move closer to supporting the implementation of the Model Music Curriculum. We have identified the following areas in which, over the coming years, we aim to develop further:

- Increase the number of whole-class instrumental lessons
- Create a musical ensemble to run alongside choir offering children the opportunity to learn an instrument as a group and practise a repertoire of songs.
- Improve the use of music vocabulary throughout the school.
- Develop current assessment strategies and frameworks to improve the accuracy of assessment.

Further information

Bedford Music Service website: <https://bedfordmusic.org.uk/>

Bedfordshire Music Co-operative website: <https://www.bedsmusic.coop/>