Music Development Plan

Barr Beacon School
'Proud to Succeed'

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	Academic year 2026-2027
Date this summary will be reviewed	End of academic year
Name of the school music lead	Mr Miles Bagshaw
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Drew Adams
Name of local music hub	Walsall Music Service
Other music education partners	Shades Music

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.

Currently Barr Beacon School offers Music once a week to all Key Stage 3 pupils with the option to choose BTEC Music at the end of Year 9 to start in Key Stage 4. Uptake has increased and we now have both a Year 10 and a Year 11 BTEC Music class.

At Barr Beacon there is the expectation that music is for all. This includes pupils with SEND and disabilities. All pupils get the same opportunities to develop their musical skills through curriculum-based learning. All pupils are encouraged to share musical ideas and their end products with the class. There is a high expectation to perform in class either independently or as part of a group.

The music curriculum is split into three topics per year from Year 7 to Year 9. Music aims to give pupils the opportunity to learn an instrument, learn about different styles of music and develop creative minds. It also aims to develop important and transferable skills such as teamwork, communication and confidence. The music curriculum is in line with the National Curriculum and follows guidance set out in the Model Music Curriculum.

Year 7 develops core keyboard, ensemble and musical-element skills through topics including Orchestral Music and Film Music. Year 8 builds greater independence through Rock and Roll, Video Game Music and Samba. Year 9 develops more advanced stylistic, creative and vocational skills through Offbeat Music, Hamilton and Professional Musicianship. Singing is included where appropriate and pupils also use keyboard, guitar, ukulele and percussion and music technology.

At Key Stage 4 pupils study the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. Pupils explore different musical styles and develop performance, songwriting and production skills. They complete vocational projects including music for media, BandLab production, ensemble and solo performance and original songwriting.

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 Barr Beacon School all pupils have the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular music activities. From this academic year, the school will move from managing instrumental lessons directly to using Shades Music as a fully managed peripatetic service. Shades Music will manage bookings, parent communication, payments, teacher coordination and lesson scheduling. This will reduce the administration needed in school, provide a clearer system for parents and allow more time to be spent on teaching, clubs and performances.

Pupils can apply for lessons in guitar, ukulele, keyboard/piano, violin, cello, vocals, clarinet, flute, trumpet, recorder and drums. Shades Music also offers Rock School, choir, DJ and music production. Pupils entitled to Pupil Premium funding can still apply for lessons through the school's funding arrangements.

Each pupil will receive a lesson notebook so that teachers and parents can communicate about practice goals and progress. Most instruments can be loaned as part of the lesson fee, helping pupils to practise at home. Shades Music can also arrange concerts and can support pupils working towards ABRSM, Rockschool and Trinity qualifications. This gives pupils clearer opportunities to progress and perform.

The music classroom is open at breaktime when available. Pupils can use the instruments and practise with others. This gives them the chance to work with others, build confidence and practise what they have learnt in music.

There is a school choir that is open to everyone. We learn and perform a range of songs. The choir is used in performances in school, at Trust events and in the local community. There is also a music club and opportunities for bands and small groups to rehearse. Pupils have the option to perform at school events, allowing them to build confidence and have something to work towards.

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.

Barr Beacon School provides regular performing arts opportunities throughout the year. During the previous academic year pupils performed in Black History assemblies, the Matrix Arts Choir event, school and Trust awards evenings, Christmas carol and end-of-term assemblies, the Matrix Showcase, Culture Week assemblies, Culture Day, Battle of the Bands and Sports Day.
Beacon's Got Talent was introduced as a new whole-school event and was very successful. It gave singers, instrumentalists, dancers and other performers the chance to audition, rehearse with technical support and perform for families and the wider school community.
Pupils represented the school through solo performances, vocal groups, choir, bands, dance groups and culturally diverse performances using instruments including dhol and harmonium. These opportunities help pupils build confidence, teamwork, resilience and stagecraft.
A professional producer delivered a workshop for Year 10 BTEC Music pupils. This was very successful and gave pupils an insight into professional music production, creative decision-making and careers in the music industry.

In the future

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

We are currently aiming to continue and develop the annual performance calendar. This will include awards evenings, Christmas performances, a BTEC Showcase, Culture Week and Culture Day performances, Sports Day, Battle of the Bands and another Beacon's Got Talent following the success of the first event.
Barr Beacon School will host the Matrix Performing Arts event. This will give pupils from across the Trust the opportunity to share music, dance and drama. It will also give Barr Beacon pupils opportunities to develop backstage, technical, organisational and leadership skills.
We are planning to take the choir to perform at a local care home. This will allow pupils to perform outside school and strengthen links with the local community.
The successful producer workshop will be repeated with Year 10 BTEC Music pupils. We are also planning a trip to a local recording studio through an existing industry contact. This will give pupils first-hand experience of recording, production, studio practice and careers in music.
We would also like to continue providing opportunities to see live music and gain an insight into careers around music. The new partnership with Shades Music will help to increase instrumental uptake, provide regular concerts, improve access to instruments and support pupils who want to work towards graded qualifications.
We will continue to strengthen progression from Key Stage 3 into BTEC Music and sustain the increased uptake at Key Stage 4.