

Music Development Plan 2024-25



Greenside Primary School

Inspire Nurture Challenge

Approved by: Philippa Saving	Date: November 2024
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Music Development Plan Summary 2024-2025: Greenside Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	November 2025
Name of the school music lead	Ciara Finney (2024-2025)
Name of local music hub	Tri-Borough Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Pelican Music

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.

At Greenside, every child from EYFS to Year 6 participates in weekly music lessons, supporting their growth into confident and skilled musicians. In EYFS, pupils begin with a variety of untuned percussion instruments, which they play across all terms to build their sense of rhythm, coordination, and enjoyment of music. During the Summer term, more formal lessons are introduced, allowing children to start learning basic techniques and familiarise themselves with tuned percussion as they prepare for their transition into KS1.

From Years 1 through 6, music lessons are led by our music teacher, Patrick Cassidy, who teaches all day on Wednesdays as part of our partnership with the Tri-Borough Music Hub. These lessons, aligned with the National Curriculum, provide students with a solid foundation in musical knowledge and skills. Over their years at Greenside, students experience a diverse range of instruments, including tuned and untuned percussion, guitars, ukuleles, glockenspiels, and recorders. They build skills in rhythm, melody, harmony, and ensemble playing, preparing them for more advanced musical study.

In addition to instrumental practice, students engage in music-making without instruments. They explore vocal exercises, body percussion, and creative sound-making, learning how to create and appreciate music using their voices and bodies. This approach develops confidence and a deep understanding of musical elements like rhythm, pitch, dynamics, and expression.

To reinforce their musical learning, classroom teachers are encouraged to incorporate singing and rhythmic activities during the week. Regular singing and rhythm exercises help sustain their musical development, make learning joyful, and ensure that music is a consistent part of the school experience.

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.

Beyond their regular music lessons, children at Greenside have a variety of co-curricular opportunities to deepen their engagement with music. At Greenside, we believe that music is as important as any other subject and recognise each child's potential to excel musically. By identifying young children with particular musical aptitude, we can inspire them toward a lifelong appreciation of music and support pathways to future success.

Beginning in the Early Years, we offer a range of co-curricular activities to foster a love for music. For example, "Musical Explorers," a club provided by Pelican Music, introduces young children to global sounds and instruments in a hands-on and interactive way, encouraging curiosity and creativity. Within the Early Years provision, music is always accessible through both adult-led and child-directed activities, and children are encouraged to use the outdoor stage to build confidence in performance.

For Years 1 to 6, Patrick Cassidy leads weekly music lessons, identifying students who show special musical talent. These students are invited to join our school band, where they receive tailored support to build their instrumental and ensemble skills, enhancing their abilities in an environment that values creativity, discipline, and collaboration.

Our choir, open to all children in Years 3 to 6, offers a range of performance opportunities, including participation in Voice in a Million (VIAM) at Wembley, singing at in-school assemblies and events, and representing Greenside through community performances at venues like Westfield. These experiences not only enhance musical skills but also provide a platform for students to share their talents with a wider audience.

Every week, students participate in a singing assembly led by our music lead, Ciara Finney. This assembly encourages a sense of unity and joy as the whole school comes together in song, celebrating music as an essential part of the Greenside experience.

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.

At Greenside, we offer students a comprehensive range of musical and cultural experiences, enriched by partnerships that connect them with inspiring figures and institutions. Our association with the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera, alongside other TEFAT schools like Greenside, brings unique opportunities for children to engage deeply with the arts. Currently available for KS2 students, these projects are set to expand to KS1 next academic year, providing even more students with immersive experiences in various art forms. Programs include Create & Sing, which introduces students to opera, Create & Dance focusing on ballet, and Create & Design, where students learn about set design. These projects often align with renowned performances like *The Nutcracker*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *The Magic Flute*, bringing these classics to life in ways that foster creativity and understanding of the performing arts.

To inspire further musical development, Greenside hosts Albert's Band annually, from the Royal Albert Hall, whose interactive performances introduce students to professional musicianship. Known for their outreach work, Albert's Band also offers free music lessons to children showing high musical aptitude, nurturing early talent.

Throughout the school year, students of all ages have a variety of performance opportunities. In EYFS and KS1, children participate in a Nativity play, while students in Years 2 to 6 stage an annual pantomime. Each summer, a school-wide concert invites every child to join, with themes like 2024's ABBA-inspired performance. Upper Key Stage 2 students receive additional experiences to prepare them for secondary school, including visits to independent schools, participation in diverse programs, and a Year 6 summer production that celebrates the end of their primary journey.

Greenside also emphasises the importance of music as a cultural connector. During our yearly Cultural Fortnight, students explore music from around the world, fostering an appreciation for global sounds. They also study the contributions of Black musicians, gaining insight into the cultural impact of genres like jazz, blues, reggae, and hip-hop.

In the future

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

Curriculum Music

As we look to the future of our music curriculum, a primary goal is to fully embed our partnership with the Tri-Borough Music Hub, especially as this collaboration is still in its early stages. Leveraging Peter Pan's expertise in music production, we aim to identify students who show promise not only in music but also in digital skills. These students will have the opportunity to further develop their talents by contributing to our school podcast and, with Peter's guidance, begin creating and producing their own music. This initiative will cultivate a unique blend of creativity and technical aptitude, preparing students for modern music production and performance.

Co-curricular Music

- To complement the curriculum, we plan to offer accessible, engaging co-curricular activities that nest seamlessly within other areas of school life. Ideas include:
- Music & Movement in PE: Incorporating rhythm exercises, dance, and movement inspired by global music traditions to build cross-curricular connections.
- Literacy & Lyrics: A club where students analyse song lyrics and even write their own, connecting music to language arts and creative writing.
- Drama & Music Integration: Opportunities for students to experiment with sound effects, musical storytelling, and vocal expression within our drama program, particularly in preparation for assemblies or productions.
- Digital Music Club: For those with a flair for tech, where students learn basic music production software to create simple digital tracks, providing an introduction to digital composition.

Music Experiences

To enrich our students' musical journey, we aim to pursue the Music Mark qualification, demonstrating our commitment to a high-quality music education. Additionally, plans include:

- Early Years & KS1 Choir
- More Arts-Based Field Trips
- One-to-One Music Tuition

These plans are designed to create a dynamic, inclusive, and comprehensive musical program at Greenside, giving all children the chance to discover and nurture their musical abilities within and beyond the classroom.

