

Music development plan summary: Carnforth School

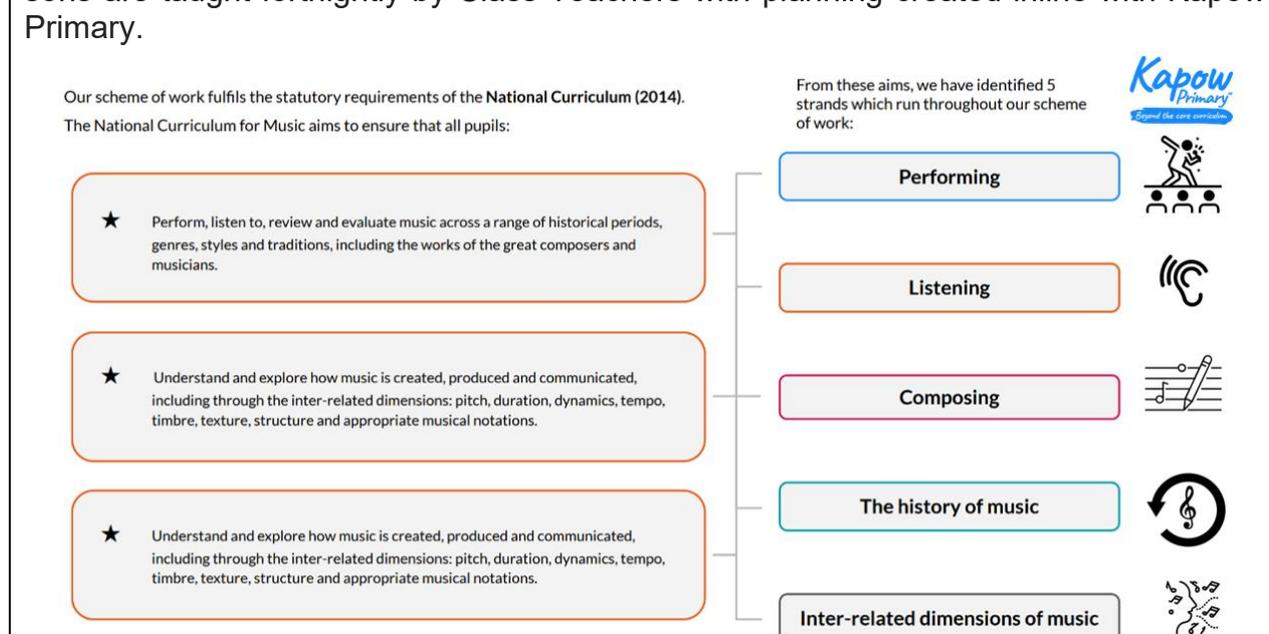
Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	Spring 2027
Name of the school music lead	Bronwen East
Name of local music hub	Severn Arts

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

Children at The Black Pear Trust develop a love and understanding of music which is promoted by all practitioners in the Trust Community. The music curriculum at The Black Pear Trust offers a cyclical approach, whereby pupils return to the same skills and knowledge throughout their education which enables them to develop depth in each area and use prior knowledge to support growth. Throughout the academic year, music lessons are taught fortnightly by Class Teachers with planning created inline with Kapow Primary.



By experiencing a broad music curriculum with opportunities for enrichment, our children will leave The Black Pear Trust feeling proud of their musical achievements. With opportunities to perform to audiences in school assemblies and public performances; participate in focussed music lessons led by school staff and peripatetic teachers; and being immersed in a wide variety of music to explore cultural capital and musical appreciation, all children will learn vital life skills such as creativity, perseverance and confidence which will help them in their future careers and professions.

At Carnforth, music lessons take place fortnightly, taught by class teachers. Careful consideration has been put in place for the coverage of music to ensure all key strands are covered throughout the lessons.

In addition to lessons taught by class teachers, The Carnforth School works closely with Severn Arts to provide high-quality ukulele provision across Years 3, 4 and 6. Pupils begin learning the ukulele in Year 3, where they are introduced to the fundamental skills needed to play, including basic chords, strumming patterns and instrument handling. These foundations are then revisited and developed further in Year 4, allowing children to build confidence, expand their musical vocabulary and apply their skills with increasing accuracy. By Year 6, pupils return to the instrument with greater maturity and musical understanding, enabling them to refine their technique, play more complex pieces and deepen their appreciation of ensemble performance. This progressive approach ensures that ukulele skills are built securely over time and firmly embedded within pupils' wider musical learning.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Carnforth School is proud to work alongside Rocksteady Music School. Rocksteady offers an Ofqual-regulated, exam-free 'Music Performance in Bands' qualification accredited by Trinity College London designed for primary school children, the qualification recognises progress in instrument, musicianship, and performance skills, awarded based on regular lessons without requiring separate, high-pressure exams.

The school accesses a reduced fee through match-funded provision, enabling a total 40 pupils from Reception to Year 6 currently take part. Sessions are held once a week and include a 30-minute band rehearsal with trained staff and a variety of instruments. At the end of each term, pupils showcase their progress by performing in a concert in front of their peers and family.

Singing at Carnforth is regarded highly, with weekly collective choir and extra curricular clubs offered to target a range of pupils. Alongside this, pupils have opportunities to sing and perform throughout the festive period, both in school and in the community.

We are proud to offer choirs for children of all ages, with all children encouraged to participate at different points throughout the year.

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 Carnforth, we are actively encouraging Musical Appreciation in line with Cultural Capital, this is achieved by a two-year rolling programme of events focussing on a different genre. The children are exposed to a range of different artists and pieces of music within a genre throughout assemblies, information displayed around school, facts shared on the newsletter to encourage parental links and with musical opportunities being embedded throughout the school day. We ensure to use a range of appropriate vocabulary which builds on prior learning and enables the children to become confident when articulating their thoughts and discussing music with others.

Children at Carnforth enjoy a range of enriching live musical experiences throughout the year, helping to broaden their musical understanding and inspire their enthusiasm for performance. During the festive season, pupils are treated to a live brass band performance, creating a memorable atmosphere and giving them the opportunity to hear instruments played by skilled musicians. In addition, the school welcomes visiting performers from Severn Arts, who provide high-quality live music sessions that expose pupils to different genres, instruments, and professional-level musicianship. These experiences play an important role in developing pupils' cultural capital and deepening their appreciation of live music.

In Key Stage 2, children have the opportunity to attend the musical experience – Young Voices, based in Birmingham. Here the children experience performing in a large arena, as well as watching a range of performances focussing on different genres.

All additional music opportunities where a fee may arise can be subsidised by our Pupil Premium Funding, to ensure all children are eligible to attend.

In the future

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

We will continue to work closely with Rocksteady, strengthening our partnership to ensure pupils can access high-quality band-based music education and benefit from consistent, engaging rehearsal and performance opportunities.

We will also continue to collaborate with other schools within the Black Pear Trust, sharing expertise, resources, and best practice to enhance opportunities for the children at Carnforth.

Further information

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.

Severn Arts

[Music in school | Severn Arts](#)

Rocksteady

[Home - Rocksteady Music School](#)

The Black Pear Trust

[Our Curriculum | Black Pear Trust](#)