

Music Development Plan Summary: Tor Bridge Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rebecca Short
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Olivia Bartlett
Name of local music hub	Plymouth Music Education Hub <i>(Devon Music Education Hub from 2024)</i>
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	First Access Music Charanga

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.

At Tor Bridge Primary School, our music curriculum is designed to inspire a lifelong love of music, foster creativity, and develop every children’s musical skills and confidence. Music is taught across all year groups, using the Charanga Music Scheme, which meets the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The curriculum is organised termly, enabling a clear progression that allows children to build upon their knowledge and skills over time. This structure ensures that each child, regardless of their starting point, can learn more and remember more.

Curriculum:
At Tor Bridge Primary School, we implement the Charanga Musical School scheme, a modern and interactive approach that fully aligns with the Model Music Curriculum (2021). Charanga’s

scheme is designed to make music learning accessible, engaging, and enriching, structured around three fundamental pillars of musical learning:

Technical Pillar: This pillar focuses on the core skills and techniques of music, such as playing instruments, singing, understanding notation, and developing control over pitch, rhythm, and tempo. By following a cyclical approach, Charanga ensures that children revisit and refine these foundational skills throughout each school year, enabling consistent improvement and deeper technical mastery.

Expressive Pillar: The expressive dimension encourages students to explore emotion, creativity, and expression in their music-making. Through singing, ensemble playing, and individual exploration, students learn how to convey feelings and stories through music. Charanga's scheme helps children to explore dynamics, timbre, and tempo can influence the emotional impact of a piece, fostering a deep connection to music as a form of expression.

Constructive Pillar: This aspect is focused on composition and the creative process, allowing children to construct their own pieces of music. They learn how to structure their compositions, experiment with musical elements, and engage in improvisation, building their confidence as composers.

Charanga's curriculum is based on a spiral learning approach, where skills and knowledge are revisited with increasing depth over time. This means:

- **Cyclical learning:** Children return to core skills and concepts throughout their time in primary school, reinforcing knowledge through repetition and practice.
- **Increasing depth:** Each time they revisit a skill or concept, children explore it in greater detail, deepening their understanding and proficiency.
- **Building on prior knowledge:** Lessons are designed to connect new learning with what students already know, strengthening retention and allowing students to build on a solid foundation.

The Charanga Musical School scheme integrates these pillars across five strands—performing, listening, composing, the history of music, and the interrelated dimensions of music. With Charanga, every lesson is rooted in meaningful musical vocabulary and concepts. Children gain fluency in discussing music, recognising elements like pitch, dynamics, tempo, and texture, and apply these in their performances and compositions.

EYFS:

At Tor Bridge Primary, music is woven into learning throughout the year and is a core element of the specific area Expressive Arts: Being Imaginative. Musical activities are directly aligned with the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs), fostering children's expressive and creative skills from an early age.

Inclusive Education and SEND Support:

Our music curriculum is designed to be inclusive, providing adaptations and additional resources to support all learners, including those with special educational needs (SEND). Strategies include additional time for learning, alternative instruments, sensory adaptations such as ear defenders, and rest breaks.

Assessment:

Assessment is ongoing throughout each unit, with teachers using formative assessments and setting clear objectives and success criteria to evaluate progress. At the end of each year,

teachers make a summary judgment on each child's progress in relation to the National Curriculum, and this is included in the end-of-year report.

You can read more about this here: [Music Curriculum at Tor Bridge Primary School](#)

Music Education Partnerships:

Tor Bridge Primary partners with the Plymouth Music Education Hub (*Devon Music Education Hub from 2024*) and First Access Music, which provide specialist teachers who enhance our curriculum delivery. These partnerships allow our children to learn from expert musicians and access a broader range of musical experiences and opportunities such as live performances.

Resources:

- **Guitars**
- **String Instruments**
- **Ukuleles**
- **Recorders**
- **Percussion Instruments**

For further details on our music curriculum and its termly progression plan, please refer to [Music Curriculum Document](#). This document outlines our comprehensive approach to delivering an inclusive, engaging, and progressively challenging music education for all students at Ernesettle Community School.

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.

At Tor Bridge Primary School, we are committed to offering rich, accessible music experiences for all children beyond the classroom. Our extra-curricular music program is inclusive; free for all children and families, thanks to our commitment to supporting our community in light of local deprivation levels.

Group Lessons:

We provide several types of music tuition at no cost to families:

Specialist Music Teachers: Our music curriculum is supported by dedicated specialist teachers who bring expert knowledge to our sessions, helping children advance in their musical understanding.

First Access Music Subscription: Through our partnership with First Access Music, all children receive exposure to high-quality music education resources and opportunities that go beyond the standard curriculum.

Plymouth Music Education Hub: Our close collaboration with the Plymouth Music Education Hub (*Devon Music Education Hub from 2024*) offers enriching musical opportunities, including

additional resources, workshops, and performance events, ensuring our children benefit from community-wide support and expertise.

Choir & Musical Maestro’s Club:

Children can join our School Choir (Let’s Sing) and/or Musical Maestro Club, both of which are open to multiple year groups and provide a platform for children to develop their vocal and instrumental skills. More recently, the Musical Maestro Club attended a live orchestral experience aiming to inspire and increase love of music and creativity. The Theatre Royal in Plymouth was brought to life by the world class WNO Orchestra and a group of sensational soloists. In addition, the School Choir have been invited to the annual Christmas Carol event at Home Park Stadium in Plymouth.

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 Tor Bridge Primary School, we believe in the power of musical performance to build confidence, resilience, and joy in our children. We work with dedicated partners, including Show Up Now, a charity that brings high-quality drama and musical production workshops to schools at no cost. Through this collaboration, children have access to weekly drama and music sessions designed to foster their creativity, confidence, and resilience.

Annual Events:

Our music curriculum is enhanced by regular, school-wide musical events throughout the year:

Christmas Carol Concerts: Each year, we host an annual Christmas Carol Concert where children across all year groups participate in themed performances, such as Christmas Through the Decades. These concerts celebrate music, history, and culture, and offer children the chance to showcase their singing and musical talents. These concerts are free for all families to attend, ensuring accessibility for everyone.

Winter Fest & Shakespeare Festival: Our very own version of Christmas Extravaganza, Winter Fest is a Christmas music festival celebrating our children’s musical talents alongside local community members. The event is a highlight for children, families, and the community, creating a festival atmosphere where children from all year groups have the chance to perform.

Weekly Singing Assemblies: Led by our passionate music teacher, weekly singing assemblies bring the whole school together to explore a variety of musical genres and songs. This regular experience unites children across year groups in singing.

Termly Whole-School Performances: Each term, children participate in a whole-school singing performance for Parents and Carers. This is a show case of our collaborative endeavours in the weekly singing assembly.

In addition to in-school events, we aim to provide children with opportunities to experience music in broader contexts:

Concert Trips & Singing Events: We collaborate with the Plymouth Music Education Hub (*Devon Music Education Hub from 2024*) to offer concert trips where children can witness live musical performances, often with subsidised or no-cost.

In the Future

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

While our group opportunities are extensive, we are actively seeking to expand options for individual music tuition to support children who may benefit from personalised, focused instruction. This addition will further enhance our curriculum, allowing children to develop specific instrumental or vocal skills according to their interests and goals.

Further Information (optional)

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.

- [Plymouth Music Education Hub - Plymouth Online Directory](#)
- [Ofsted Outstanding School - Ernesettle Community School \(timat.co.uk\)](#)
- [Welcome to Tor Bridge - Tor Bridge Primary School \(timat.co.uk\)](#)
- [Show Up Now - weekly drama workshops for primary schools](#)
- [Music education in schools | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)
- [Home - Devon Music Education Hub](#)