



# School Music Development Plan

## Context

The subject vision and intent for music is shared throughout the school and Brent Music Service with whom we have a close working partnership.

Chalkhill is an inner city two-form entry primary school serving an area with a significant level of socio-economic deprivation, including families with barriers to learning, low-income and low-levels of employment. Therefore, our starting point for all pupils in music at Chalkhill is to give them access to music resources and activities and experiences that they may not be able to access at home and outside of school. From nursery through to Year 6, children are taught how to develop their singing voice to help express their emotions and sharpen their ability to communicate. One of the biggest benefits of singing is developing muscle memory, which is transferable to learning a musical instrument. By building on the foundations of the inter-related dimensions of music, we help to develop pupil's coordination and fine motor skills. At Chalkhill music promotes group learning, practicing social skills, turn-taking, cooperation, creativity, listening skills and a healthy well-being.

Pupils' outcomes in the subject are monitored and showcased through solo and ensemble performances and official graded exams. Continuous assessment takes place during class lessons throughout the year. Resources include a large and ever-expanding collection of musical instruments, interactive PowerPoint presentations and Brent Music Service.

## Leadership

Our subject leader and music specialist has been in post for 12 years and holds a first-class degree in Commercial Music. He has developed a range of teaching practices to deliver fun and informative music lessons whilst providing the children and staff with the opportunity to develop and learn new musical, composition and performance skills.

Each lesson is planned in detail, focusing on the key skills and requirements of the National Music Curriculum with continuous assessment throughout the year. Our music lead has developed resources for children with special educational needs to make them feel involved within the class and help them develop their skills in music, communication and co-ordination. During the music lessons, children are encouraged to work in different groups and individually, giving each child a chance to develop their communication, leadership and team building skills.

Cross-curricular teaching takes place with topics linked to WWII and Ancient Greeks. Year 6 develop music technology skills, keeping in touch with contemporary music making and open creative opportunities at home.

Staff are encouraged to take part in music lessons and singing assemblies to develop their musical skills and help promote music and its' impact on well-being throughout the school.

## Vision and Intent

We aim to teach children that music is a universal language, covering all areas of the music curriculum. We help them to grow in confidence, acquire hobbies, express their feelings and develop positive well-being in a safe, secure and healthy environment. Each year group learn a different music instrument.

By the end of KS1, pupils will have learnt how to sing with confidence, play tuned and un-tuned instruments musically, listen to a range of high-quality live and recorded music and experiment with, create and combine sounds using basic music theory knowledge.

By the end of KS2, pupils will have learnt how to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts and how to improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using a variety of musical instruments and music technology software. Throughout KS2, pupils learn how to use and read the music stave and other notations to record their compositions. Pupils will also have learnt to appreciate a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music from different traditions and celebrate the music of their own cultures, whilst developing an understanding of the history of music. As a multi-cultured school, pupils celebrate the vast musical styles in the local area and around the world.

Our curriculum is ambitious and lays the foundation for improved future success.

## Implementation

We enrich a love of music, developing a wide range of transferable musical skills and experiences through listening, composition and performance. Each child is given the opportunity to take part in a variety of musical activities including singing and learn a range of musical instruments. Each class receive weekly music lessons by our experienced music specialist, supported by enthusiastic teachers and support staff. Peripatetic music tutors provide bespoke instrumental lessons in a range of instruments including violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, guitar drums and piano. Music clubs such as school choir, boys' choir, school orchestra and steep pan club are held throughout the academic year to provide extra-curricular activities and performances in and outside of school.

## Enrichment

Chalkhill School provide pupils with the opportunity to experience live music and theatre performed by professionals inside and outside of school. These include RAF musician ensembles, drumming workshops, Wizard Theatre Company shows, and trips to theatre shows in London's West End and the local area.

Each Key Stage takes part in annual music concerts and class assemblies to showcase their musical and performance skills, whilst helping to build confidence.

## Resources

At Chalkhill Primary School, we have a wide variety of musical instruments and music software for our students to use alongside interactive PowerPoints to help lead and support our students through each music topic. Music lessons are taught by our music specialist in our bespoke music room as well as two large halls used for performances.

## Impact

We are a Gold Sing Up school and Challenge Partners recognised our music department as an area of excellence. We have pupil success in achieving ABRSM grades in trumpet, piano, guitar, violin and flute and some of our students have been awarded the Brent London Scholarship for Music. Our school choir won the Brent Choir of the Year competition in June, 2019. In 2021, our school choir were invited to sing at the Wembley Winterfest for the official Christmas lights turn on and each year, the children take part in Christmas carol concerts at local care homes to reach out to the local community.

Through high expectations and performance opportunities, pupils excel in music and achieve finery, validated by our awards. We strongly believe that understanding and communication through music

provides pupils with a rich foundation that will give them access to unlimited opportunities. This wealth of experience is shared across the borough through our strong music leader.

### Next Steps

Our next steps are to collaborate with local primary schools and the community, to further develop our links and celebrate our diverse culture. Working more closely with the parents and children, participating in the same workshops, will allow the parents to experience the music culture of Chalkhill and learn with their children.

Students have written a school anthem which is performed at each year during singing assemblies and school music concerts. This helps to give the school a strong identity and celebrate the wonderful achievements and diverse cultures of our school community.

Children have also started to develop communication skills, learning Makaton signing during singing assemblies and music concerts.

With the completion of our new music room in the summer of 2019, we continue to develop this facility into an interactive, creative and informative environment for the staff and children to further embed the foundations of music and provide opportunities to express themselves and nurture a healthy well-being.

Date Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review Date: September 2026