



Music Development Plan - 2025 to 2026

Leigh C of E Academy



Overview

Detail	Information
Date this summary was published:	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Aug 2026
Name of the school Music Lead:	Mark Odell
Name of local Music hub:	Warwickshire Music
Name of other Music education organisations/partnerships in place:	Totally RAD ISing pop

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

Music is a vital part of a broad and balanced curriculum. Our aim is to ensure that all pupils develop musical knowledge, skills and confidence through high-quality teaching, inclusive opportunities and meaningful musical experiences. Music supports creativity, wellbeing, cultural understanding and self-expression, and contributes positively to whole-school life.

The Music curriculum at Leigh Church of England Academy will inspire children to develop a love of music and increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement as musicians. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all. Our curriculum is sequenced coherently so children will have the confidence and motivation to continue to further develop their skills into the next stage of their education and life experiences.

Music is delivered through a blocked approach across a week to allow children to be fully immersed in musical learning and vocabulary. This approach raises the profile of music within the school and enables pupils to develop their understanding and confidence in preparation for a final performance outcome. Throughout Key Stage 1 and 2 music is blocked within the penultimate week of each half term. In keeping with pedagogical thought, we believe that this allows time to delve into and develop important musical skills and appreciation of the arts. Teachers follow the Charanga programme of study: Listen and Appraise, Musical Activities, Perform/Share. The Charanga scheme builds on the key interrelated dimensions of music which is explored throughout the week, building to an application of all of the skills learned in a performance. At the beginning of each new teaching block, there is a brief recap and skills are progressively brought in where appropriate.

Throughout the scheme, children are actively involved in using and developing their singing voices, using body percussion and whole-body actions, and learning to handle and play classroom instruments off music. Through a range of whole class, group and individual activities, children have opportunities to explore sounds, listen actively, compose and perform.

In Early years, Music is taught through Charanga and in continuous provision. The children are encouraged to express their opinions about music, compose and perform, sing a range of rhymes and songs and try to move in time with music. Music comes under the branch of Expressive Arts and Design in the EYFS curriculum.

At Leigh music is an integral expression of our Christian vision – rooted in the teachings of Jesus and our motto *Aim Ever Higher* – and a distinct feature of our curriculum intent. Through immersive weekly music blocks, Charanga-aligned progression, collective singing and performance opportunities, pupils are encouraged to *aim ever higher* in their musical knowledge, skills and confidence, building on prior learning and making meaningful connections across the wider curriculum. Music enriches worship and shared reflection, enabling pupils to explore spirituality, express emotion, and engage with God through sound, song and collective praise. The regular use of high-quality singing resources such as I Sing Pop, school choir, and professional musical tuition supports aspiration, community, cohesion and individual flourishing, helping pupils to see themselves as valued contributors to a Christian community where they learn and grow together. In this way, music not only develops cultural capital and creativity but also nurtures spiritual maturity, belonging and a deep sense of shared identity in line with our Christian distinctiveness.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

(This is about how we develop and extend Music provision beyond the curriculum Music, including co-curricular activities, individual and small group teaching and performance opportunities.)

Outside of the Music classroom, there are additional opportunities to develop Music skills. These include , but are not limited to:

- A range of peripatetic instrumental lessons (voice, piano/keyboard, acoustic and electric guitar), provided by Totally Rad Music. These individual music lessons with a professional music teacher are offered to pupils, ensuring opportunities for progression and musical excellence.
- A weekly school choir further enriches musical experiences and supports performance skills.
- I Sing Pop is used across the school to promote high-quality singing and consistent vocal development, and provide weekly sessions with Year 5.
- Singing and music form a central part of collective worship, reinforcing the importance of music as a fundamental way of coming together as a community and helping pupils to see themselves as part of something bigger than themselves.
- Whole school church services (Harvest and Easter), which include congregational singing and performances from our Music Ambassadors.
- Yearly percussive performances and workshops, provided by local businesses in conjunction with Anti-Bullying Week
- Year 6 undertake a leavers production that utilises musical and performative skills
- In school instrumental concerts and musical performances

Approximately one third of pupils currently engage with co-curricular musical tuition and clubs.

Part C: Musical Experiences

(This section considers the role that Music plays in the wider community and how we can work in partnership with the wider community and other stakeholders.)

It is our desire for each child to experience performing in public at least once a year, although many perform once a term."

Music plays a central role in promoting Christian distinctiveness and nurturing spirituality across the school. Through singing, listening and performance, pupils are given opportunities to reflect, express emotion and explore deeper questions of meaning, belonging and faith. Music is embedded within collective worship and is used as a powerful vehicle for prayer, reflection and praise, enabling pupils to engage spiritually, regardless of background or ability. Regular singing helps pupils to experience joy, stillness and unity, supporting moments of personal reflection as well as shared worship. By coming together through music, pupils develop a sense of community, recognise their place within a wider Christian family and understand music as a gift that brings people closer to God and to one another. This consistent and intentional use of music supports the school's vision, strengthens spiritual development and ensures that worship is inclusive, meaningful and deeply rooted in Christian values.

Attendance in collective worship at external provision is also utilised; two year groups attend the annual Christingle service at Coventry Cathedral and all year groups attend the local church for Harvest and Easter services. Year 6 attend Young Voices each year, practising the songs and dances in the build up to the event.

In the future

(Whilst we are proud of the positive impact Music has at Leigh, it is important to be reflective and honestly appraise the delivery of Music at our school. We very much take the view that our provision is ever evolving, and we are always looking for ways in which to enhance the service we provide).

As a further development, we have identified the need to create more opportunities for pupils to experience live performances by professional musicians. Ideally, each year group would get to attend a live concert at least once a year in order to further develop and enhance their cultural capital. For academic year 2025 - 2026, we would also like to provide more opportunities to use ICT through Music.