Music development plan summary: Buxton Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2026
Name of the school music lead	Karen Chetwood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ros Carter
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Peak District Music Centres Buxton Opera House

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.

The curriculum

Classes are taught in a whole-class weekly or fortnightly music lesson. These lessons range from 30-60 minutes and include opportunities to develop the key skills of singing, listening and responding to music, composing and improvising. We have a class set of glockenspiels, which are used in music lessons for Years 3, 5 and 6, with Year 4 receiving flute tuition as part of their music lessons instead. Music is taught as a discrete subject, but is also woven into other areas of the curriculum – for example, singing songs to embed multiplication tables, as well as responding to different styles of music within PE lessons.

We use the Charanga scheme to deliver music lessons in Years 3, 5 and 6; the spiral curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum, with key skills and concepts

revisited both throughout the academic year, and throughout children's journey through school. The curriculum is clearly sequenced, with the interrelated dimensions of music acting as a golden thread woven through each unit. As they move through the school, children's confidence in themselves as musicians grows; repeated exposure to correct, subject-specific vocabulary enables them to articulate their thoughts in response to music from a wide range of styles and eras. Children are given the opportunity to learn and practise playing an instrument, leading towards a number of performance opportunities during their time at school. In Year 4, all children learn to play the clarinet as part of the Classroom Instrumental Learning (CIL) programme, delivered by a music specialist from the Derbyshire Music Partnership. We work closely with the music teacher to ensure that their skills progression is aligned with the Charanga scheme, meaning that they have the knowledge they need not only prior to commencing Year 4, but before coming back to Charanga in Year 5 as well.

Our school website has links to the Charanga music scheme, including a scheme overview and skills progression; the skills progression document for Year 4 is also on our website. The Charanga Model Music Curriculum Scheme provides teachers with week-by-week lesson support for each year group in the school. It is ideal for specialist and non-specialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, and engaging resources to support every lesson.

Inclusion

Music is vitally important to the social, emotional and moral education of our children and we are highly aware that, for a number of our pupils, their first experiences of music will be at school. Our aim is for all of our children to leave us with a high quality music education, regardless of what opportunities they may or may not have at home. As with all our subjects at Buxton Junior School, the aim which underpins how we plan and teach music is that of making children's experiences as rich and meaningful as possible, linking skills and knowledge to create learning that is engaging, relevant and accessible to all. We have high expectations of all our pupils and make adaptations for pupils who may need them due to Special Educational Needs and/ or if they have a disability. This may include the use of percussion instruments or body percussion instead of singing; the use of ear defenders or the use of adult support. We use glockenspiels in our whole-class instrumental lessons, and Charanga offers up to four levels of challenge, ranging from the use of one single note to the use of six. This enables children to access the lesson at their point of need and comfort.

Partnerships

We have strong working partnerships with the Derbyshire Music Hub and Peak District Music Centres, accessing projects and programmes from both the hub and the local music centre. For instance, we regularly participate in the Sing2Gether project (or the

Big Sing), and our pupils have the opportunity to receive small group strings tuition following participation in a project when they were at Buxton Infant School. In addition to this, our lunchtime recorder club is run in partnership with Peak District Music Centres, with a pathway to progress to other woodwind instruments - starting with flute club in September 2025. The music coordinator meets with the Chair of Peak District Music Centres on a regular basis to plan further collaboration and next steps.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

Choir and Singing

Our choir is open to all year groups and is free of charge, rehearsing once a week after school. The choir is run by two members of staff, and learns songs from a range of styles and cultures. Our choir performs at concerts and school events, such as the Christmas Fair and special assemblies. They have also performed at events outside of school, including the 'Big Sing' (organised by Peak District Music Centres) at St John's Church, alongside a number of other local school choirs. As part of special projects like these, choir members have the opportunity to work with specialist singing teachers, professional musicians and other young musicians. We place high value on singing at Buxton Junior School, and hold a singing assembly every week, where a new song for the week is introduced, to be practised each day until the following singing assembly.

Instrumental tuition

As well as our whole-class music lessons, we offer a range of instrumental opportunities during the school day that are open to all pupils in Years 3-6. These include flute club (lunchtimes, run by a music teacher with Peak District Music Centres) as well as peripatetic instrumental lessons. These include cello, violin, piano, saxophone, guitar and flute.

Instrumental teachers are accredited via the Derbyshire Music Partnership and teach children individually or in small groups. These lessons are either free, subsidised or paid for by parents. In Year 5, children may continue playing their violin as a follow on from the Classroom Instrumental Learning (CIL) programme, which provides subsidised small group instrumental lessons. Children may choose to take up a different instrument, at this point, and are also entitled to a subsidy. Some children receive fully funded instrumental tuition through Pupil Premium funding or other initiatives e.g. Peak District Music Centre bursaries and funds and Burbage Brass Band.

Concerts and Performances

We place high value on music in our school, and so create opportunities for our children to perform, not only to each other in special assemblies, but also to their parents/ carers and the wider community – for example, the Sing2Gether project that our Year 3s participated in, which culminated in a concert at St John's Church. Class teachers often include a song and/or instrumental performance as part of class-led assemblies in front of the rest of the school. Christmas plays, Harvest assemblies and end of year productions are important events in our school calendar that we all look forward to and work hard towards.

Progression Pathways

We have pathways available for our young musicians to perform beyond school, fostering links with the Opera House, Derbyshire Music Hub and Peak District Music Centres. Children may start playing a musical instrument at primary school and then perform in larger groups and ensembles beyond school. This may include membership of a band, orchestra or choir, as well as joining local productions and performances.

Practice and communication with parents/carers

In order to make progress and experience success, it is important for children to practise playing their instrument regularly. This does not have to be a long, arduous task; little and often is an effective strategy to use and can feel more manageable to fit into a daily routine. This might look like 10-15 minutes daily, with sessions gradually building as skills progress.

We recommend that parents/ carers support their child with practice at home by getting involved in their child's musical journey. We encourage good communication between instrumental teachers and parents/ carers so they are best placed to support their child's musical development.

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.

Concerts & Performances by children (2023-24; 2024-25)

- Harvest Festival (Year 4)
- Year 3 Nativity

- Choir – performance at Christmas Fair

- Year 4 Violins Wider Opportunities concert for parents/carers

- Year 4 Wider Opportunities, Year 5 & 6 Violins Follow on Workshop at Buxton Octagon with Peak District Music Centres

- Year 4 Violins Wider Opportunities concert for parents/carers

- Choir Big Sing Event with other local schools through Peak District Music Centres at St John's (June 24)

- Year 6 Production (July 24)

- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (July 24)

- Choir performance in assembly (Summer 24)

- Y5 follow-on violinists performing in assembly

- Y3 glockenspiels performing in assembly

Watching Concerts & Performances by others

- 'Rush' - Year 6 at Pavilion Arts Centre with Buxton Community School Year 7 pupils – Windrush show - history of reggae music (Nov 23)

- Hare and Tortoise Performance watched by Year 3, performed by Buxton Opera House outreach (Dec 23)

-Assembly with Kate Pogmore, bassoonist

-Assembly performance from Dominic Smith (parent), cellist

- Y4 trip to Bridgewater Hall to watch the Halle Orchestra

- Performance at St John's Church by Chetham's School of Music's string orchestra (June 24)

-Assembly performance from Burbage Training Band (including a number of our pupils)

- Assembly performance from Buxton Recorder Consort/ Polydolci

- Rumpelstiltskin performance watched by Year 3, performed by Buxton Opera House outreach

- 'The Tempest' performance watched by Years 4-6, performed by Buxton Opera House outreach.

- Visit and performance from Ben Gilliker, member of the National Youth Orchestra (violinist)

Musical Experiences Planned for the coming year:

- Year 3 Nativity
- Choir – performances at Christmas and Summer Fairs
- Year 4 clarinet Wider Opportunities concert for parents/carers & Year 5 & 6 violin follow-on players
- Year 4 Wider Opportunities, Years 3 and 5 follow on musical event - Buxton Octagon with Peak District Music Centres date tbc
- Choir Big Sing Event with other local schools through Peak District Music Centres at St John's date tbc
- Year 6 End of Year Production (July 26)
- Year 6 Leavers' Assembly (July 26)
- Choir and instrumentalists performing in end of term assemblies
- Djembe drumming workshops with Daniel Priest (Years 3-6 (Autumn 26)

Watching Concerts & Performances by others

- Workshops and events with Buxton Opera House, Derbyshire Music Education Hub, Peak District Music Centres, or other partners TBA
-Assembly performance from Burbage Training Band (including a number of our pupils)
- Assembly performance from Buxton Recorder Consort/ Polydolci
-Y4 visit to the Halle Orchestra
- Assembly performance from local ukelele ensemble
- Performance by the English Touring Opera (Spring 2026)

Charging

Musical performances are either free, or we ask for a voluntary donation.

In the future

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

Priorities for music this coming year:

- Increasing weekly music lesson time to 60 minutes per week for all year groups. This might take the form of two shorter sessions.

- In connection to the above, the development and embedding of a music assembly rota, with the aim of using Charanga resources and questioning to strengthen children's skills in listening and responding to music.
- Supporting class teachers to assess progress against each skill (Listening, Singing, Playing, Composing, Improvising and Performing) by creating guidance about which skills to focus on for each unit of work
- Strengthen musical vocabulary throughout school
- Creating space and timetable for pupils to practise during and after school

Projects and initiatives

- Develop a bridging unit (Year 6 to Year 7) in collaboration with Buxton Community School and other primary schools in the Cluster for summer 26

Further information (optional)

Find out more about:

Peak District Music Centres - https://www.pdmc.org.uk/

Derbyshire Music Education Hub - https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/home.aspx

Buxton Opera House Learning & Engagement: https://buxtonoperahouse.org.uk/learning-engagement