

Music development plan summary: Ashcroft Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn Term 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn Term 2026
Name of the academy music lead	Nick Jeffries
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	As above
Name of local music hub	Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our academy 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 academy 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 Ashcroft Primary Academy, we have timetabled, weekly whole class music lessons in all classes as well as specialist teaching in specific year groups. We use the Sparkyard music scheme for our lessons which is aligned to the national plan for music education and the model music curriculum. A broad range of music is taught covering a diverse range of genres and cultures. Music from different time periods and from around the world is evenly balanced throughout the curriculum. Music technology is utilised in Key Stage 2 due to the children accessing GarageBand software through their iPads. We have a range of instruments that can be used in the lessons and our curriculum and are signposted through the Sparkyard scheme units of work. Children with SEND have resources to scaffold access to the curriculum.

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.

This year (and upcoming years), pupils across Ashcroft Primary will enjoy a rich programme of singing and instrumental opportunities led by our music partners. Singing sessions are scheduled throughout the year: Reception will take part in Summer 1, while Year 3 will focus on vocal work during Spring 2. Year 6 begin the year with 'Carmen' in Autumn 1 and later prepare leavers' songs in Summer 2. Meanwhile, Year 1 and Year 2 will learn and perform Christmas songs in Autumn 2. Year 4 participate in the Sinfonia Viva project during Spring 1.

Instrumental teaching is equally varied. In Autumn, Year 3 learn bamboo tamboo, exploring rhythm and ensemble work. Year 4 engage in a sustained programme of brass tuition—specifically trumpet—delivered weekly across 30 weeks. To finish the year, Year 6 explore the trombone-like pBones in Summer 2, offering a dynamic and engaging experience with low brass instruments.

Such sessions enable our children, who would not otherwise have the opportunity, to learn an instrument and experience the benefits of playing music together. We have arranged these sessions in collaboration with the Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership and come at no cost to parents. Our instrumental tutors encourage the children to join ensembles and groups through Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership.

Throughout the year our children enjoy taking part in a seasonal production, music performances and singing within class assemblies which are performed to parents and peers.

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 Ashcroft Primary Academy, there are performance opportunities each term during our assemblies to parents. Classes have the chance to share their learning which can be further embellished with a performance of a song linked to the project through the Sparkyard platform.

Our EYFS team organise a traditional nativity performance that includes singing and dancing; parents attend at no cost and is always a popular event.

At the end of each term, the year groups who have received specialist instrumental tuition also give performances to their parents.

At Ashcroft Primary, we are working on creating strong links with the music service to encourage instrumentalists to progress to performing in ensembles. Parents and carers are fully supportive of music making and we have a good turn-out at productions.

A choir of around 15 children will also be participating in the Young Voices event at the Manchester Arena in February 2026.

In the future

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

At Ashcroft Primary we would like to:

- ✓ Develop further the children's composition skills
- ✓ Further embed the Sparkyard resources to support teaching and learning
- ✓ Consider how to include music appreciation sessions into our timetable
- ✓ Bring singing into our assemblies
- ✓ Create more opportunities for a choir to perform to audiences

Further information

Our instrumental tutors are provided by Derbyshire Music Partnership and strongly encourage the children to join the hub's various ensembles and holiday courses when at the appropriate level. This is a link to the website:

[Derbyshire Music Education Hub](#)