

Music development plan summary: Beckfoot School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mike Lee
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kelly Tatlock
Name of local music hub	West Yorkshire Music Hub area – Led by Bradford Music Education Hub for 2024-25
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark and Artsmark Gold school

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.

Music is a hugely important and successful provision at Beckfoot. As part of the Creative Arts faculty, it forms part of the 'soul' of our school. It is key to the experiences we provide to our students to allow them to Enjoy school, Learn brilliantly and Succeed to the best level possible. Creative Arts is a safe space for them to embrace school, be embraced as individuals and to excel.

Our intent for music is to ignite a creative spark in each child and to develop musicianship through performance, composition, listening and appraising. Our curriculum is diverse and inclusive and allows for all, irrespective of their prior attainment and any disability or SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) needs, to excel.

The nature of the subject, the chosen topics and tasks ensure that all students are provided with appropriate stretch and challenge. We ensure that students' needs are fully reflected in our curriculum through over exposure to opportunities and by ensuring we adapt the curriculum to suit the requirements of specific disabilities e.g. hearing and visual impairments and physical conditions requiring additional materials. We also provide support from teaching assistants where appropriate. More about over exposure and opportunities for students is seen in the extra-curricular section.

On the school website you can find a wealth of information about our department and curriculum, this is found here:

[Beckfoot School - Music](#)

All students at Beckfoot School study music for one hour each week at Key Stage 3. Lessons are based around a variety of engaging topics, always with making music at the core. Students access the practical elements through the use of keyboards, meaning they are not constantly learning new instrumental technique, and can focus on developing their understanding and enjoyment of a wide range of musical styles and experiences, whilst also developing their performance skills.

Our curriculum has been refined and developed over several years. We are outward facing and look at the curricula of other schools to ensure ours is better than the National Curriculum. We have used the Model Music Curriculum to shape our own curriculum and as work develops in KS1 and KS2, we will update our curriculum to reflect the increased knowledge that students arrive with in year 7 to ensure the aspiration found in the model is attained at Beckfoot.

In a typical scheme of learning students will appraise a range of pieces in the genre being studied. This will be done through mini whiteboard tasks during lessons and supported using topic specific knowledge organisers. Students will then learn iconic pieces through appraisal and performance of the piece. Many topics will then develop to allow students to compose music in that style thereby ensuring that the three core strands of performance, composition and listening and appraising are covered.

At KS3 the following topics are covered through appraisal, analysis, performance (keyboard, vocal or own instruments) and composition:

Year 7

The elements of music

Gamelan

Chords

Riffs

Caribbean

Year 8

Music for advertising

Blues

Pop

Film

Latin America

Hip-Hop

Year 9

What is music to you?

History of Music

Grunge and Britpop

Stage and Screen

Disco, EDM and Grime

World Music and Fusion

At Key Stage 4 we study the Eduqas GCSE as it plays to the strengths of our students. The course develops musicians through an appreciation of a wide range of pieces under set topics, as outlined by the board.

The students are examined in performance, composition and listening and appraising, extending the work we do at KS3.

Students study the following areas:

AOS1 – Forms and Devices

AOS2 – Music for small ensemble

AOS3 – Music for Film

AOS4 – Popular Music

Students develop their understanding through instrumental and vocal study, led by our team of peripatetic staff.

Students compose two pieces, one to a set brief and one free composition.

Students study the history, musical fingerprints and iconic pieces found within each area of study. There are two set works, Badinerie by Bach and Africa by Toto.

At A Level we follow the Pearson Edexcel course. This is an extension of our GCSE provision. Students study a vast range of set works, which are seen as iconic pieces in specific styles and genres. Students are also examined on performance, composition and Listening and Appraising as they are in KS3 and at GCSE.

Students study the following areas:

AOS1 – Vocal music

AOS2 – Instrumental music

AOS3 – Film Music

AOS4 – Popular Music and Jazz

AOS5 – Fusion

AOS6 – New directions

Students develop their understanding through instrumental and vocal study, led by our team of peripatetic staff.

Students compose two pieces, one to a set brief or free composition and one brief assessing technique taken in timed conditions.

Students study the history, musical fingerprints and iconic pieces found within each area of study. There are 13 set works, many with multiple movement.

Students in all year groups are encouraged to enter instrumental and vocal exams, as their instrumental teacher recommends. Students enter exams for ABRSM, Trinity and Trinity Rock and Pop.

Part B: Extra 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.

Our extracurricular provision is outstanding. It is vast, embraces a huge amount of musical styles and is constantly evolving. The breadth and depth is something we are incredibly proud of and is a regional example of best practice.

One to one music lessons are taught by an amazing and long serving group of peripatetic staff during the school day. A wide range of instrumental lessons are offered including Vocals, Drums, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Brass, Piano / Keyboard and Woodwind.

We have approximately 150 students who access one to one music lessons in school.

Pupil Premium students are offered free one to one music lessons and the school also lends instruments to students who cannot purchase their own to practice with.

We currently have 29 (20%) of Pupil Premium students accessing one to one music lessons which is reflective of our whole school demographic.

As part of their in-school tuition, students are offered the chance to take exam qualifications through ABRSM, Rock School and Trinity. For PP students these exams are funded by the school.

The music department has an extensive extra-curricular offer. Groups are run during Sports and Performing Arts ('SPA') over Break and Tutor time and as after school clubs.

Most of our groups are open to all students in school but some require students to play at a certain level before they can join.

Groups include:

Junior Vocal Group - A large singing group made up of students from Key stage 3. Students sing Pop songs and are given the chance to choose their favourite songs which are then arranged by the group's teacher.

Senior Vocal Group - Vocal group made up of students from Key stage 4 and 5. Students sing complex and challenging arrangements with intricate harmonies.

Percussion group - Drumming group made up of students from Key stage 3. Students learn to play exciting and upbeat pieces and also collaborate with our Brass group to form BeckBeat Brass band.

Drum line - Drumming group made up of our more experienced players from across all Key Stages. Students learn to play complex pieces with difficult techniques and stick tricks.

Samba band - Large Brazilian style drumming group. Learning energetic pieces with tricky Polyrhythms.

Guitar Group - Made up of students from across all Key stages. Students learn to play arrangements of Rock, Blues and Jazz pieces, arranged by our expert guitar teacher

Brass Group - A brass band brought into the modern world of music. Playing exciting tunes, often collaborating with our Percussion group to form the other half of Beckbeat Brass.

Woodwind group - Made up of Woodwind players from across all key stages. Performing beautiful arrangements of Classical pieces and Jazz standards.

Senior Band - Made up of some of the schools most experienced musicians (Grade 4 and above) performing a wide range of musical styles.

Groovetubes – Our 'junior band' for mixed instrumentalists. All instrumental students in year 7-11 play in groovetubes, with some sixth form leaders supporting their progress. Students play a mix of rock, pop, jazz, film and classical music.

Handchimes – A percussion group for sixth form students. The handchimes are a set of 'bells' that students play a mixture of traditional pop and film music.

Keyboard Club - A group made up of Ks3 students performing Popular keyboard led pieces.

Soul Band - Ks4 and 5 band performing popular Funk and Soul numbers

Music Technology and DJ Club - A club focused on DAW and DJ skills. Students learn to sequence midi and record audio using a DAW. Students are also given the opportunity to learn how to use the USB and Vinyl DJ decks.

Music Theory club - For students of all musical abilities and levels. A group where students develop their music theory knowledge

In a typical week over 200 students access our ensembles and groups.

In collaboration with the Performing Arts department, our school senior band performs as part of the school musical on a biennial basis.

Lots of our students also start their own bands and groups which are encouraged and guided by the music department.

Students can book out any of our fully equipped 6 music practice rooms or 2 teaching rooms to rehearse at Break, Lunch and after school.

We run a school music tour to Europe on a Biennial basis. This tour is one of the highlights for musicians who attend Beckfoot.

We employ our Music Peri staff directly and not through the music educational hub. However, we do work closely with the Hub attending Secondary Music meetings and performing at their annual proms concert at St. George's Hall.

Students are also encouraged to join outside of school groups and provision. We have students that are involved in:

- Local theatre productions
- Bradford Youth Orchestra
- National Youth Orchestra
- Local radio station
- Local choirs
- Local Brass bands

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.

We have an extensive programme of concerts that are held throughout the year. Our concerts are held on an evening and parents, students and the wider local community are invited to attend.

We also have student performances during school time including performances at Break time and in assembly.

The concerts in our programme include:

- Open evening performance
- Biennial School Musical- 3 nights
- Christmas Concert- 2 nights
- 6th form open evening
- Young Musician concert- A chance for our students to compete as soloists and in ensembles against one another with a panel of expert judges
- Senior Concert
- Summer Serenade - Junior concert
- Creativity awards showcase

Students perform at these events in our school ensembles as well as in smaller bands that they have formed independently. Performances also include several soloists on a variety of instruments.

School concerts are charged at a minimal fee to ensure all parents and students can attend. PP students interested in attending concerts are offered free tickets.

Each year, we are invited take part in the Bradford Music Service Proms. We take a different school ensemble to perform at this concert each year to allow as many students as possible to experience playing in front of a large audience at a historic venue.

Please note, other external concerts and performance opportunities are often added to this programme including performances at community events and festivals.

As part of our enrichment provision, the music department plan a music tour abroad every other year. The music tours include performing at concerts in venues around Europe. Music tours rotate between France, Belgium and the Netherlands as destinations. Around 60 students attend our music tour each year.

Each year, we organise an A level trip for students to see a live performance outside of school. Previous concert trips include seeing the Opera North Orchestra and Jazz ensembles in Leeds.

It is our strong desire to expose our students to as many musical performances and music-based opportunities as possible. This includes bringing external musicians into school to perform for our students and run workshops with them. Workshops have recently included Dhol drumming and Rap writing.

In the future

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

- Develop transition of year 6 to year 7. Further work with local primary feeder schools to help develop a bridging curriculum. Working closely with lead practitioners in each school to have regular meetings and offer staff CPD for non-specialists teaching music – this will be looked at in the academic year 2024/2025.
- Performance opportunities with local primary schools to get more year 6/7 students excited about music at Beckfoot before they start – work with the feeder school music leads to start in the first term of 2024.
- Develop more in-school performance opportunities to allow students to see their peers performing and be inspired to get involved in extra-curricular music – To work with the sixth form leaders to implement this work in 2024.
- Further refinement of curriculum at KS3. Constantly updating, developing, and improving our curriculum. Making it engaging, inclusive and challenging for our students. Resulting in strong numbers and outcomes at KS4 and 5. This is a long-term development as KS2 curricula strengthen.
- Investigation of Eduqas A Level music as a natural progression from GCSE. Providing a stronger link between KS4 and 5 and getting better outcomes at KS5 – This would be for September 2025.
- Develop music links within local community including the Bingley Music Town organisation to further performance opportunities and work with local musicians- Sep 2024 to June 2025
- Links with musical organisations such as LCM, Hudds, Leeds Uni, Northern Ballet, Opera North etc – An ongoing piece of work starting in 2025.
- More concerts opportunities for students to see. GCSE students to get the same concert opportunities as A Level to see a live concert from professional musicians – January 2025.
- To continue working to build provision and uptake of instrumental lessons – investigation of a music bursary scheme for students, which has had success in a school in Harrogate – to implement in September 2025.
- To identify lead music departments in the country and shadow their work to ensure we are a world class music department for curriculum and extra-curricular provision. To be delivered as part of a whole school process of sharing best practice.

Further information (optional)

To add links to instrumental sign up within school, local ensembles/choirs/bands/music theatre groups/music service here.

To sign up for instrumental lessons in school, click here:

[Beckfoot School Instrumental lesson sign up form - To be completed by parent/carer. \(office.com\)](#)

To discover more about our curriculum, please click here:

[Beckfoot School - Music](#)

To find out more about Music happening in Bingley, visit Bingley Music town here:

[Bingley Music Town](#)

Local music shops can be visited here:

[Windstruments & Music House](#)

[The Early Music Shop](#)

[Aire Valley Guitar](#)

[Home | West Yorkshire Woodwind](#)

Local venues and concert listings can be found here:

[Bingley Little Theatre \(bingleyartscentre.co.uk\)](#)

[Tapestry Arts Live Music | Venue Hire | Bradford - West Yorkshire](#)

[Bradford Theatres | Bradford Theatres \(bradford-theatres.co.uk\)](#)Alhambra

[Plan Your Visit: Leeds Grand Theatre: Leeds Heritage Theatres](#)

[Howard Assembly Room | Opera North](#)

[Home | Opera North](#)

[Home | Northern Ballet](#)

[Leeds Conservatoire | Specialist Music and Performing Arts Conservatoire \(lcm.ac.uk\)](#)

[Kirklees Town Halls | Kirklees Council](#)

Local radio stations

[BCB Radio 106.6FM – Tuned in to Bradford](#)

To find out more about Music Hubs, please click here:

[Music Education Hubs | Arts Council England](#)

To find out more about our Lead Music Hub Organisation please click here:

[Schools - Bradford Music Education Hub \(bradfordmusiconline.co.uk\)](#)

To find out more about Artsmark, please click here:

[Welcome \(artsmark.org.uk\)](#)

To find out more about Music Mark, please click here:

[Music Mark | Leaders in High Quality Music Education](#)

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.