Music Development Plan Summary: Ladybridge High School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	14/10/27
Names of the school music lead	Mrs Emma Armitage (Head of Performing Arts)
Names of qualified music teachers	Mr Joe Starbuck, Mrs Susan Barber and Mr Martin Ainscough
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	Mrs Briony Foster
Name of local music hub	Bolton Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Please find further information about our aims and approach for Performing Arts and Music specifically by using this link:
https://www.ladybridgehigh.co.uk/curriculum/performing-arts/music/

Additionally we take some of our approach from 'Musical Futures' to make learning relevant, engaging, imaginative and authentic, whatever their level of experience. Through this

programme we aim for music at Ladybridge to be:

- Inclusive - everyone takes part at their own level
- Absorbing - the learning is practical and hands on
- Relevant - it starts with music that learners are listening to and identify with
- Sociable - learners collaborate with friends
- Informal - it is led by learners and modelled, guided and supported by teachers
- Varied - learners perform, listen, compose, improvise, work on a range of instruments and voices, use technology and explore a range of genres and styles
- Progressive - music learning experiences are high quality, authentic where possible, and with clear progression routes.
- Respectful - all learners, no matter what their ability or experience are treated as musicians and are supported to learn and develop.

Links to the School Curriculum for Music
Our detailed music curriculum for each year group can be accessed through the following links

KS3 Curriculum
KS4 - Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Time Allocation for Curriculum Music

Learners in year 7, 8 and 9 receive an hour a week of music teaching. This is split between schemes of learning on music technology and schemes of learning on instrumental instruction. This is so that learners have a well rounded experience of all types of music.

Learners in year 10 and 11 who are studying Pearson's BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice receive 5 hours of music teaching in a two week period.

Access to a range of instruments and singing

All learners at KS3 have opportunities to experience and play the following instruments through whole class ensembles and small groups within their music lessons.

- Guitar
- Ukelele
- Drums
- Bass
- Keyboard
- Samba Drums
- Music Technology

Learners are also given the opportunity to sing during schemes of learning such as 'Find Your Voice'.

In addition to instruments and singing we have a fully resourced music technology suite with 15 iMacs, push pads and more hardware and software. This allows our learners a different way of making music and it is making it more accessible for learners.

Information of Partnerships

As mentioned previously Music Futures influence our approach to teaching music and we have invested in the teaching tools that they provide. We also attend the Bolton Music Hub run by the Bolton Music Service which supports teaching and learning of the music curriculum and provides performance opportunities outside of curriculum time.

Music Qualifications and Awards

- Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice
- We offer ABRSM graded music exams

Subject specialists

Music is taught by a core team of specialists and we offer instrumental (peripatetic) lessons 'in house' with our own music teachers. This is because of the unique variety of instruments our music teachers can teach. Leadership of Music falls under the Head of Performing Arts.

Mr Joe Starbuck - Music specialist and offers peripatetic lessons for drums, guitar, ukulele, bass, and numerous brass instruments

Mrs Susan Barber - Music specialist and offers peripatetic lessons in keyboard/piano, violin, clarinet, saxophone, flute and voice.

Mr Martin Ainscough - Music specialist and Deputy Headteacher and can offer peripatetic lessons in piano.

Part B: Co-curricular/Extra Curricular Music

This is about the opportunities for pupils to sing, play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

Music Tuition offered - Instruments, charging, subsidised, free PP etc

Ladybridge High provides high quality individual (1:1) and paired music lessons to any learner who wants personalised instruction. This is provided during the school day by our own music specialists. Learners come out of their timetabled lessons for 20 minutes per week to receive these lessons and this opportunity is open to all learners in years 7-11. We offer lessons in keyboard, piano, drums, trumpet, trombone, bass guitar, violin, vocal, clarinet, saxophone and flute.

The lessons are priced at £25 for paired lessons per half term and £50 for individual lessons per term. Each learner receives 5 lessons per term. Where there is a learner who is eligible for Pupil Premium funding they receive these lessons free of charge.

Ensembles Available

Ladybridge High School extra curricular offer is rich and diverse. It also changes to meet the needs of learners and adapts to any performance opportunities within the school calendar.

- We have an established staff/student band which meets once a week called The Collective and this is open to any student who wishes to join.
- The Chamber Ensemble is a new group set up to support learners who would like to play more traditional instruments in a group.
- We have different choirs operating to suit the performance opportunities ahead.
- Student led bands are able to rehearse most lunch times and after school as are learners who want to practice their instrument or sing.

Further information and an up-to-date extra-curricular timetable can be found on our Performing Arts Website using the link below.
https://sites.google.com/ladybridgehigh.co.uk/performingarts/lhs-performing-arts-home-page?authuser=0

Progression Opportunities in Music

We offer ABRSM graded music exams to allow learners to progress with their individual instrument. Learners have access to all the music facilities at lunch times and after school. We are always on the look out for any learner who may need extra tuition because they are not being challenged within lessons. We have had learners receiving bursaries and weekend lessons at the RNCM.

Rehearsal and Practice Spaces

We have two fully equipped classrooms. One for the teaching of instruments and one with 15 iMacs used to teach music technology. Within these rooms we have 3 practice rooms for learners to use at any time outside of lessons. We also have a piano in The Hub, our canteen,

where we have learners often practicing and playing during lunchtime.

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 Ladybridge High, we offer a variety of musical events and opportunities in addition to our regular curriculum. These experiences are intended to create a 'Ladybridge Rich' experience for our learners and include performances, concerts and trips.

Planned Musical Performances:

Every year we have a school production that learners get involved in. This is open to all year 7 to 10 learners and our policy is 'we don't turn anyone away'. Rehearsals last most of the year and time is put into the music of these shows to ensure a high quality professional performance. This year's production is Shrek Jr

In addition to this we have the winter/Christmas concert that happens every year, showcasing musical talent at Ladybridge. Student led bands perform alongside soloists, the choir and The Collective.

Over the past 3 years, we have built up our very own musical festival called BridgeFest. This is a music event that has gone from a small concert to something that, this year, will be performed outside with supporting events such as food stalls.

Finally it is very important that we provide the opportunity for our Key Stage 4 music classes to achieve as well as possible. To do this they perform in short recital evenings in front of a life audience. This really does raise the performance level much higher than recording in a classroom will ever do.

Participation and Audience Details.

Again, similar to The School Production we have a policy of not 'turning anyone away'. Every learner from every background has the opportunity to perform if they want to. The Performing Arts team will work together with the learners to help them prepare and fine tune their performances ready for the stage. Preparing for a performance improves learners' music abilities and boosts their confidence. Over the course of the year we sell almost 500 tickets for all the above music events and they are attended by a mixture of parents, teachers, families and peers.

Charging Information for Events

Ladybridge High is in one of the most deprived areas of the county and therefore we keep our ticket prices low. We charge £4 for Adults and £2 for concessions to our concerts, school productions and BridgeFest. Recital evenings are free of charge. We also offer free tickets to the local Food Bank for our school productions. We often earn in other ways such as donations for programmes and refreshments. The money supports the Performing Arts department for larger cost one off items that we would not otherwise be able to afford within the normal budget.

In the Future

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

At Ladybridge High, we are continually looking to increase and expand our music offerings to provide even more opportunities for our students in the coming years.

Planned improvements and High Quality Music Provisions.

- Employ a peripatetic teacher to join our team to ensure all learners on our waiting list can learn an instrument.
- To organise more trips so that learners get to see more professional musicians at work
- To expand BridgeFest to include a new location, larger audience and more learners showcasing their work.
- To offer more diversity within the curriculum to include Indian Drumming - funding for this will hopefully come from a grant we will apply for later in the academic year.
- Engage more with the Music Hub and to think about taking over the running of it.