

# Music development plan summary: Ashcroft Infant and Nursery School



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Gemma Poole
Name of local music hub	Entrust Music Service - Staffordshire

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.

At Ashcroft, we follow a spiral curriculum using the requirements of the National Curriculum scheme of work. Our teaching of Music is imbedded into our topic work to further develop the children's understanding of both the topic and the music curriculum. Using the Spiral curriculum, the children are revisiting the same concepts and skills over time, but with increasing mastery each time. Our topics change every half term providing the children with lots of opportunities to explore different aspects of the music curriculum depending on how the current topic can be studied in relation to music teaching.

Singing is an important part of our music teaching at Ashcroft. We use songs throughout our teaching and learning, providing the children with many opportunities to perform as an ensemble or as a whole school in assemblies. We develop skills further through listening and appraising music as well as creating our own music. Our children love having opportunities to explore instruments which we encourage as much as possible to develop their enjoyment of music and their self-confidence of being musical.

Music makes an important contribution to the life of every school and should be celebrated, promoted and encouraged. At Ashcroft, we encourage enjoyment of making

music from singing to composing, developing the children's confidence through exploring different skills.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014).

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils;

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to explore playing different musical instruments and to develop an enjoyment of making music.
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

We want every child to feel that they are musical and to enjoy playing and making music. We intend for all children in our school to develop a life-long love of music beginning in Early Years until they leave us in Year 2. Every child is given the opportunity to explore instruments, perform to an audience, sing regularly and to develop a love of being musical.

<https://www.ashcroftinfantandnursery.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=29&type=pdf>

## **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.

Our weekly singing assemblies offer the opportunity for children to experience singing within a mixed-age environment; this enables us to give experience of unison singing, part-singing and vocal harmony.

There are regular performing opportunities for our children; these range from in-class 'mini concerts' to special concerts attended by parents.

Music also plays an important part in a range of multi-cultural events throughout the year, when our children have the opportunity to both experience music performance and participate using instruments from a range of cultures.

### **Staffordshire Music Centres**

There are seven Music Centres running across Staffordshire in Burton, Cannock, Lichfield, Moorlands, Newcastle, Stafford / Stone and Tamworth, so pupils can come together to make music in groups. These music centres are free of charge and cater for all ages and abilities. Parents, pupils or schools can contact [musicservice@entrsted.co.uk](mailto:musicservice@entrsted.co.uk) for further details or can just visit one of the centres and try a group.

## **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.

- Weekly singing assembly where the children are taught different songs and can practice the skills of singing in split parts and in unison.
- Songs are picked relating to the current topic or seasonal events so that the children are regularly learning new songs and singing skills are developed further.
- Musical terminology is introduced and explained during singing assemblies to develop the children's understanding.
- Christmas Nativity performances feature lots of singing opportunities for all children as well as small ensemble and solo opportunities.
- Songs are used across the curriculum such as in English with the full stop rap or singing our numbers in Maths.
- There are opportunities for the children to perform songs at Mother's Day concerts and at our Easter parade.
- Our choir club has performed at local shops, old people's homes and in the town centre.
- Music listening within classrooms to accompany other curriculum areas such as phonics, maths, history, PSHE. Music is played as a background for art and writing. Music for dance in PE. We have cross curricular music opportunities mapped out, for example links to our All about Me and Dinosaurs topics.
- Year 2 children perform songs during their Leaver's concert.
- We have a yearly music concert from Entrust Music Staffordshire where different instruments are brought into school and performed by peripatetic music teachers. The children are able to ask questions about the instruments and what it is like to play them.

## In the future

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

- Re-establish choir club for Years 1 and 2
- Create a music club such as recorders or percussion instruments.
- Develop further links with our feeder school for collaborative performance opportunities and general sharing of ideas and resources.
  - Explore options for local musicians coming into school to perform for the children.
- Ensure that the children are aware of basic musical vocabulary for musical elements such as pitch, melody, dynamics, texture and this knowledge is built upon through the school.
- Create an instrument handbook for staff to name each instrument, its origin and how it can be played.
- Continue to develop our children's love and enjoyment of making music.