

Music development plan summary: *Gordonbrock Primary School*

“Music is a cornerstone of the broad and balanced education that every child should receive. It touches hearts and minds, it celebrates and challenges, it connects us and moves us.” *National Plan for Music Education (NPME 2022).*

Gordonbrock celebrates and champions this vision from the National Plan for Music Education in our young musicians’ daily lives.

Every child is a musician at Gordonbrock and all young musicians have the right to a diverse, well-rounded, high quality music education.

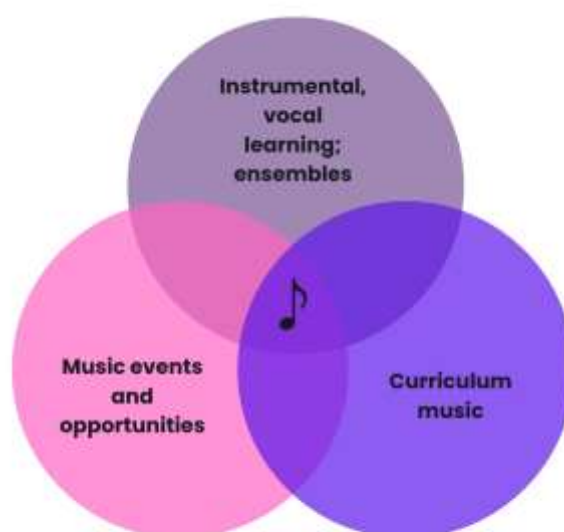
Our music education is one of purpose and power: it’s not presented as a ‘nice to have’ or a mere cultural commodity, but is one which actively and continuously transforms lives – of young musicians, staff, parents and communities.

We create this musical environment by basing our ‘Gordonbrock Music Curriculum’ on the national Model Music Curriculum - a national progressive guide that takes our young musicians through a vast array of diverse genres, musical techniques and instrumental skills through composition and performance. All young musicians explore how musical techniques and skills can be nurtured and developed through singing, performing, composing and listening to music with increasing understanding and participating in performances as performers as well as audience members.

However, through our curriculum, Gordonbrock young musicians go above and beyond the expectations of the Model Music Curriculum and National Plan for Music Education through our partnerships with professional music organisations- through our links with Royal Opera House, Trinity Laban, SongEasel and Lewisham Music; our aim is to give our young musicians aspirations of professional music careers.

All young musicians perform termly either through singing in mass choir playground concerts, mass instrumental concerts, choirs, orchestra, instrumental ensembles or on stages with National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, London Youth Choirs, Royal Opera House youth chorus, Lewisham Music and Trinity Laban.

We have been awarded the prestigious Music Mark school award for our high-quality music provision across all areas. Our aim is to consistently promote resilient, collaborative and imaginative musicians daily.



♪ The quaver represents each pupil, collaboratively able to access all three areas of music education during their time with us.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Joe Prescott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mark Ridler-Mayor
Name of local music hub	Area: London South East Lead Hub Organisation: SEL (South-east London) Music Education Ltd Localised Hub: Lewisham Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Royal Opera House (Create Day, open auditions for Youth chorus) Music Mark award Trinity Laban (Supersonics Jazz workshop) Borough of Culture events (Hope4Justice) SongEasel (School choir outreach with pro sopranos) SingUp! (Sing-up day) LEAN

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.

Every Child at Gordonbrock receives one hour of music provision weekly in line with the Model music curriculum and National Plan for Music education. Whether through a curriculum music making session provided by our specialist music teacher (SMT), weekly singing assemblies led by SMT or music making within the classroom (using a wide

range of CPD music resources given to all staff and appropriate repertoire (Voices Foundation, Sing Up!, Friday Afternoons, Royal Opera House).

To find out more about our progression through curriculum sessions see our termly and yearly plans on the [Music](#) section of our school website.

Instrumentation and vocal learning:

We pride ourselves on delivering outstanding progression through instrumental and vocal learning at Gordonbrock.

All instrumental and vocal learning are carefully linked and sequenced throughout their time at GB.

All young musicians consolidate their learning through a range of instruments making sure they always re-visit the same instrument to deepen their understanding, enhance the progress and legacy of their instrumental learning.

Whole-class instrumentation learning:

For more information, please see our music progression plans, termly and yearly plans.

EYFS: PULSE

Young musicians in Nursery and Reception develop rhythm with movement. Using a range of percussion all students can move to the pulse of the music, recognise different lengths of notes through movement and can play call-and-response rhythms.

Y1: SYNCOPATION

Year 1 musicians explore syncopated rhythm through learning a range of songs with chime bars and a range of percussion. Using music and words through stories young musicians travel around the world learning about different musical cultures.

Y2: ONE-OCTAVE GLOCKENSPIEL

'The Musical Kingdom' is an immersive experience for all young musicians in Y2 as they learn crochets, quavers, minims, semibreves and rests linked with musical animals as word rhythms. The children progress into reading the sheet music to play on one octave Glockenspiels. Young musicians progress to compose through a graphic score focusing in on Anna Clyne's Night Ferry.

Y3: SAMBA

Young musicians in Y3 journey to Brazil to discover how to play syncopated rhythms using samba drums. Using different textures, they compose a range of polyrhythms for a performance.

Y4 – TWO-OCTAVE GLOCKENSPIEL AND U-U-UKELELE!

Children in Y4 develop their rhythm through using two octave glockenspiels and xylophones. They maintain five individual parts accurately within the rhythmic texture as an ensemble. All young musicians follow semiquavers, quavers, crochets, minims, semibreves rests on the musical staff whilst playing. They progress onto learning chord progressions through blues and jazz on the ukulele working towards a performance.

Y5: RECORDER & VIKING DRUMMING

Composing a ternary piece (ABA) as a Viking drum battle on the staff using all musical notes learnt so far in their musical life is Y5's first Context for Learning in Autumn. They then learn to read sheet music of an octave (Do-Do) through the recorder as they prepare for a recorder recital using a range of rhythms in harmony (some syncopated and dotted).

Y6: BECOMING THE MUSICAL LEADER

Senior young musicians progress in their Brazilian samba drumming by learning how to conduct and lead an ensemble. All students use all musical knowledge of rhythm they have learnt to bring together a number of layers of different tuned and untuned percussion for a performance in leavers assembly. This is filmed and can be used as a transition project for secondary school music making.

Singing at Gordonbrock:

Singing is at the heartbeat of our music making within Gordonbrock. Our young singers are immersed in a positive singing musical environment by exploring an array of genres in their musical journey, workshops from professional singers (SongEasel, Black History Month live music assembly, Royal Opera House, Lewisham Music, Trinity Laban) and developing expression through singing. From disco to musical theatre to Indian classical to opera our song choices in line with the Model Music Curriculum and the National Plan for Music which are crucial in engaging and inspiring our young singers in music making.

Our young musicians develop their singing technique daily through the following six principles:

Warm ups - pupils use their voices safely. From sirening to fun games a warm up is vital for successful singing.

Breathing - Increasing their control of airflow when singing. Knowing when to sustain phrases and when to use shorter breaths for effect.

Posture - Standing in a relaxed yet stable stance sets the body up well to produce an unforced but well focused sound.

Dynamics - Using a range of dynamics as an expressive tool. Confident singing will often be loud but not tip over into shouting.

Phrasing - Giving shape to melodic lines this may be through small dynamic changes or diction.

Context - Our singing can often be brought to life when considering the context in which it was composed or discussing the meaning of the lyrics.

In **Nursery**, singing with movement is used throughout music making sessions to develop a sense of pulse to music. Singing songs using a range of solfa do-mi with pitch matching is developed weekly.

In **Reception**, young singers develop their range of pitch by using solfa hand symbols for do-so by learning a range of songs with a range of expression. This is explored through musical games 'this is my happy voice, this is my robot voice, this is my giant voice'.

Y1: Harmony is explored as our young musicians learn simple songs some call and response using do-so or mi-so in range within a round. This is where our musicians sing a song starting at different times to create simple harmony.

Y2: Our young singers in year two regularly sing songs with a range of do-so pitching accurately and with increasing vocal control. The understanding of dynamics (loud/quiet) and tempo (fast/slow) and be able to demonstrate these when singing by responding to the leader's directions and visual symbols (e.g. crescendo, decrescendo, pause).

Y3: Performing songs with greater expression and increasing control of phrasing and breathing throughout a song is focused on. Recognising and developing the difference between singing legato (smooth) and staccato (short) for effect within singing and confidence with dynamics.

Y4: Singing in two part harmony is developed weekly in our KS2 singing assemblies whilst reading sheet music for our Big Sing performances. Within our music curriculum sessions our young musicians develop singing rounds in four parts with confidence leading each part with clear diction.

Y5: Developing ear-training is key for our year five young singers as they lead a three/ four part round within our music curriculum sessions. Learning the musical language through singing (learning notes on the staff, treble clef, how to write in dynamics and tempo markings) develops their composition tool kit as they compose their own ternary pieces.

Y6: Our young singers sing a range of songs that involve syncopated rhythms, vocal independence and vocal leadership as they develop leading harmony parts sometimes in mixed formation to create a greater blend of sound. Singing is taken above and beyond

during performances by showcasing a greater range of dynamics, diction, phrasing, close harmony and expression.

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.

Music making at Gordonbrock takes place during lesson time as curriculum music through our specialist music teacher but also takes place outside of lesson time. We offer a wide range of instrumental learning in partnership with our Lewisham Music.

In certain circumstances Gordonbrock can subsidise costs of learning an instrument and tailor music making learning for all young musicians.

Small-group instrumental learning:

Flute/clarinet lessons (small groups) from specialist woodwind tutor, Alex Lyon:

Learning a range of pieces working towards ABRSM grades and working towards in school/ borough performances within the woodwind ensemble, orchestra and open rehearsal time in our dedicated soundproof studio music room.

Trumpet/Trombone (small groups) from specialist brass tutor, Eoghan Kelly:

Learning a range of pieces working towards ABRSM grades and working towards in school/ borough performances within the brass ensemble, orchestra and open rehearsal time in our dedicated soundproof studio music room.

Violin/Harp (small groups) from specialist strings tutor, Verity Thirkettle:

Learning a range of pieces working towards ABRSM grades and working towards in school/ borough performances within the strings ensemble, orchestra and open rehearsal time in our dedicated soundproof studio music room. GB have a range of Violins as loan options.

Guitar (small groups) from specialist music lead, Joe Prescott:

Learning a range of pieces from a wide range of genres and cultures learning a range of techniques in sequence. Working towards LCM London College Of Music grades young musicians perform during assemblies and Summer/Winter Fairs frequently as our guitar ensemble.

Bringing our music making culture together from curriculum learning/small group learning into ensembles is vital for continuation of instrumental and vocal learning. We deliver the following ensembles:

Ensembles:

Junior Choir led by specialist music tutor, Joe Prescott:

Learning a diverse range of songs from a broad range of genres in two-part harmony. Open to all Y3/4 young musicians.

Senior Choir led by specialist music tutor, Joe Prescott:

Focusing in on the ownership of their own vocal development. Consistently using the musical language in how to improve and enhance our sound. Learning songs in three-part harmony and composing our own pieces. Open to all Y5/6 young musicians.

Both our junior and senior choirs work in collaboration with Lewisham Music, SongEassel, Trinity Laban and professional musicians with termly workshops working on certain pieces or singing technique (staggered breathing, legato phrases, greater range of dynamics)

Orchestra led by specialist music tutor, Joe Prescott, and conducted by Y6 student conductor:

We are very proud to be one of if not the only primary orchestra in Lewisham to include all four families of the orchestra and to be led by a student conductor. This collaborative ensemble connects musicians learning together from curriculum learning, one-on-one, small group to a bigger ensemble. Learning a range of pieces from diverse genres, our orchestra performs in borough events (Lewisham Unplugged 24) and in school performances termly. It is open to all KS2 students - current instrumentation: recorder, drums, percussion, samba drums, glock, violin, trombone, trumpet, guitar, conductor, harp.

Brass ensemble led by specialist brass tutor, Eoghan Kelly

String ensemble led by specialist strings tutor, Verity Thirkettle

Woodwind ensemble led by specialist woodwind tutor, Alex Lyon

Guitar ensemble led by specialist music lead, Joe Prescott

Music production led by specialist music lead, Joe Prescott, virtually through Bandlab

Open rehearsal space:

Our dedicated music room studio space is open for KS2 students to rehearse during dedicated break/lunch time booking slots. This opens up our young musicians musically creativity as they can practice a chosen instrument or set up a small ensemble/band with music lead, Joe Prescott.

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.

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LIVE music opportunities:

Inspiring our young musicians with live music is at the core of our vision. Once a term every term all KS1 and KS2 children listen, watch and take part in FREE workshops from live professional musicians. This past year we have seen:

- Live jazz/funk band playing songs themed to Black History Month (Musicians played with/recorded with: Stevie Wonder house band, Nile Rodgers house band, Glastonbury, BBC studios)
- Jazz sessions from Trinity Laban Supersonics on how to improvise and compose. (Jazz students studying at Trinity)
- Professional sopranos singing from SongEasel
- Classical harpists with folk workshops (Performed classically around the world and appears on Little Mermaid film score)
- Opera singers from The Royal Opera House with choir workshops

Performance is the heartbeat of our music education at Gordonbrock

In-school performance:

- Every young musician in KS1/2 performs to our community termly:
- Winter concerts in the playground and hall
- Winter music festival at winter fair
- BIG sings in spring KS1 and KS2
- Summer Sings in summer KS1 and KS2
- Reception and Y1 mini musical

Every instrumental or vocal learning session leads to a performance or recording during our curriculum music making:

- Y2 Anna Clyne composition recording
- Y2 London College of Music recording for Grade 1
- Y3 samba performances
- Y4 student led percussion performance & Ukulele performances
- Y5 viking drumming composition recording and recorder recital
- Y5/6 music technology recordings & Samba student led performance

Music assemblies:

All young musicians in KS1 and KS2 have the opportunity to perform in assembly either through an ensemble or solo instrumental/vocal performance. Please speak to Mr Prescott if you would like to perform.

Out-of-school performances:

- Turning Of The Year, Blackheath Halls, Lewisham Music, Junior and Senior Choir
- Lewisham Unplugged, St Stephens Church, Catford, Lewisham Music, Orchestra
- SongEasel, St Stephens Church, Lewisham Music, Senior choir
- Hope4Justice Mountsfield Park, Trinity Laban, Senior choir
- Songfest, Lewisham Music, Junior choir

In the future

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

Over the next academic year we will continue to foster our partnerships with our professional musical organisations.

We are also working towards a new ArtsMark award which has been in development in recent years.

Our ambition going forward:

- Continuing links with professional organisations consistently to inspire our young musicians
- Live music concert trips to professional venues with workshops for instrumental learning
- Consistently reviewing our planning and process to maintain our outstanding music delivery across all areas featuring the seven features of high-quality music provision:
 - ✓ timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 2
 - ✓ access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
 - ✓ a school choir or vocal ensemble
 - ✓ a school ensemble, band, orchestra or group

- ✓ space for rehearsals and individual practice
- ✓ a termly school performance
- ✓ opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Further information

[Visit our school website](#) for more information about our exceptional music provision.

Our half-termly [The Arts Bulletin](#) highlights the diverse and enriching offerings in the arts.

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.

Find out more from [our local music hub Lewisham Music](#).

If you have any queries or questions in regards to music making at Gordonbrock or want to find out about joining an ensemble, learning an instrument or have any other query, please email info@gordonbrock.lewisham.sch.uk