



Henleaze Junior School
Music Development Plan 2026-2027: Summary

This is a summary of how Henleaze Junior School delivers music education to all 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, parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Detail	Information
Academic year this summary covers	2026 - 2027
Date this summary was published	June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Becky Cutler
Name of local music hub	Bristol Beacon
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Oak academy

Part A: Music curriculum

Curriculum consistency

The themes running from Year 3 – Y6 are: singing, listening, playing, composing and performing. The sequence of learning for KS2 classes includes units which focus on: singing, untuned percussion and tuned percussion / Whole Class Ensemble Tuition.

All year groups have adopted the Oak National Academy Music curriculum this year. It is informed by the breadth and ambition of the Model Music Curriculum, exposing children to a diverse range of genres, cultures and composers through a clearly sequenced approach. The curriculum develops musical knowledge and skills progressively across units and incorporates strong musical practice through singing, listening, composing and performing opportunities. Children use a range of instruments and develop their understanding of musical elements through collaborative, practical and creative experiences.

At Henleaze Junior School, we aim to develop a curiosity and enjoyment of music while fostering an understanding and appreciation of a wide range of musical styles and traditions. The school is passionate about singing, and a professional pianist is employed to enrich singing assemblies and external performances. We are committed to ensuring children

understand the value of music within the wider community and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge and experiences to participate confidently in a variety of musical contexts.

Time for music

Music lessons are timetabled for Year 3 to Year 6 in unit blocks across the school year. Most lessons are between 30-45 minutes long. Our 15-minute Singing Assemblies count towards curriculum time, with a termly focus on a different interrelated dimension of music alongside a termly focus of a different composer.

Music lessons are taught in the classrooms.

Whole Class Ensemble Tuition

Year 4 receive 4 terms of ukulele lessons lead by a specialist teacher from Bristol Beacon. Alongside learning a tuned instruments, the children also learn about rhythm, notation and styles of music.

Singing in Lessons

Once across the year, Years 3-6 do an assembly, learning topic based songs.

Disabled and SEND Pupils

We consider how specific activities or pedagogy may need to be adjusted to ensure all pupils are able to access learning to participate fully. Making Music accessible to all, including SEND, disabled, disadvantaged and EAL pupils includes:

- having high expectations and promoting equal opportunities
- creating a positive environment of understanding, small-group and 1:1 support
- effective liaison with LSAs
- additional scaffolding, flexible grouping, longer attempts and more practise time
- differentiated support: e.g. using a simplified or reduced number of notes when learning an instrument
- access to instrument lessons

It is our aim for all children to see themselves as musicians.

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.

Singing Assemblies

We have a weekly Singing Assemblies. This is 15 minutes and counts towards weekly Music curriculum time. Children sing songs from a wide range of cultures and genres to: warm-up and develop the voice, connect to our school values and learn songs that help to progress musical skills including round and part singing. We also use this time to focus knowledge on notation, the elements of music and an exposure to performances from a variety of musicians.

Choir

At Henleaze we have a choir who meet weekly for 45 minutes after school. This choir is open to all who would like to join and is run free of charge.

Choir performs at Christmas events, large scale concerts alongside other schools and at our own music evening.

Bristol Beacon Peripatetic Tuition

Peripatetic tutors from Bristol Beacon offer lessons on: guitar, violin, flute, clarinet, brass, piano and cello. Lessons are 20 minutes long and available in both individual and small group formats. Children can work towards accredited grades.

Instrumental Ensembles

Orchestra

The orchestra runs weekly. Open to all children who play an instrument.

Pianists are involved through transferring their skills to glockenspiels. Some instrumentalists have previously taken part in Bristol Beacon's Primary Orchestra Workshop, where children learn pieces then rehearse and play in a city-wide primary orchestra, supported by tutors and culminating in a performance to parents.

Guitar group.

Children who learn to play the guitar in school, perform to the parents and children regularly in assemblies and in a concert in Term 4.

Ukulele

The Year 4 children learn the Ukulele as part of their music lessons and perform in Term 4 as a year 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.

Christmas performances

All children perform in our 'Winter celebration' held at the end of Term 2 in a local church. They sing a selection of winter themed and Christmas songs. There are also performances from the school orchestra and choir.

Additionally, the choir perform multiple times during the Christmas period with events on the local high street, occasionally at the Christmas fair and at a Bristol school wide event at Bristol Beacon.

We hold an annual music evening at school whereby we timetable a mixture of group and solo performances from any child who auditions - including children who have music lessons outside of school.

Music evening

At the end of Term 4, all children are given the opportunity to perform as either a group or soloist at our annual 'Music evening'. This occurs across two nights due to its popularity. We have a range of instruments showcased from children who have been put forward via their music teacher or via an audition tape, alongside performances from our choir and orchestra.

Year 6 Production

Our Year 6 children work towards a musical production every year. In the past two years, they have performed versions of Matilda the musical and Shrek the musical. The children work hard to rehearse songs, some with parts and harmony.

They take ownership of their production: their suggestions for actions and musical direction help shape it. Year 6 sing with character and pride. Many children put themselves forward to sing small solo and small-group parts. Children in Year are invited to watch the dress rehearsal of the performance. There are two final evening performances.

Trust performances

As a member of Amplify, we take part in a trust wide concert alongside all the primary and secondary schools within the Trust. We send a set of children to perform on Bristol Beacon's main stage, singing alongside an orchestra made up from secondary school pupils.

In the past, this performance has also included body percussion and music from other cultures - more recently bhangra drumming.

Bristol Beacon Events

Henleaze Juniors is a Bristol Beacon Member School. Through this membership, we enjoy attending many exciting musical events in our city's flagship concert venues. These have previously included:

- Key Stage 2 Winter Sing in Bristol Beacon Main Hall (KS2 Choir)
- Orchestra workshop at Trinity Academy / Bristol Beacon Main Hall (KS2 musicians)

For events with an audience, ticket prices are set by Bristol Beacon. Support has previously been offered to our families in receipt of pupil premium through offering some subsidised tickets.

In the Future

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

Music curriculum

After recently adopting the Oak National Academy primary music curriculum, we will be reviewing its effectiveness and developing the delivery of a new scheme of work.

We plan to continue to use singing assemblies as a way to recap areas of the music curriculum. As well as exposure to different genres of music, children will learn about the elements of music such as pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo with a different focus each term.

Resourcing

Alongside the infants school, we want to make sure that warming up our voice is a key element to all singing and create an easy bank of ideas for teachers to draw from.

Musical experiences

We are hoping to provide more exposure of our musical performances to Henleaze Infant School to increase the children's opportunity of listening to live music. It will also give the current Year 2s insight of what is available at Henleaze Junior School when they transition to Year 3.

Further Information

The link to find further information from the government about Music education can be found [here](#).
Our local music hub, Bristol Beacon, has an extensive programme of CPD sessions and collaborative events which can be found [here](#).