

# Music Development Plan summary: Fulbridge Academy 2024/2025



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Lizzie Erskine
Name of local music hub	Peterborough

## Overview of Music at Fulbridge Academy

At Fulbridge we value the arts as a vital component of our educational approach, promoting participation in music as part of its Performing Arts program.

At Fulbridge we aspire for our children to leave us with an appreciation of music and the arts and the ability to live their lives as confident individuals with a love of music and performing. In addition, we recognise the importance of music and performing arts in the development of language skills and the development of self-confidence. Our music curriculum is embedded into our performing arts curriculum and although this is specifically a music development summary we acknowledge that the two go hand-in-hand at Fulbridge. Performing Arts is a diverse subject which supports, inspires and encourages students to develop as a whole. In line with the academy's 'Active Learning' framework, Performing Arts has no barriers, working to support students' Active Mind, Identity, Heart and Voice, helping to progress our students as individuals regardless of their need or ability. The subject is taught by specialised practitioners to deliver the highest quality of music and performing arts provision.

In Music, our aim is to provide a curriculum which will enable each child to reach their full potential, encouraging them to enjoy singing, composing and performing. We provide varied opportunities for musical learning and performance, on a range of instruments and experiences of listening to high quality and varied live and recorded music. Students get the opportunity to perform individually, as a group and as a class. At the end of the academic year, each year group performs an abridged musical performance piece to family, peers and staff to showcase and culminate all of the musical skills and knowledge they have gained. Our specialist team teaches Years 1-6 and the progression of skills is mapped out across this timeline ensuring the continuity and development year on year.

At Fulbridge we are passionate about nurturing and developing musical talent and enjoyment. Students have opportunities to join extracurricular creative arts clubs, including a

school choir and through links with our Music Hub those students with natural musical ability and potential follow music pathways in the area such as Peterborough Centre for Young Musicians.

## **Curriculum Music**

Our bespoke music curriculum incorporates and further extends the DfE National Curriculum in England (2014) and also has many elements from the guidance in the non-statutory document Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). To make all of the music learning purposeful and tangible, we have integrated our music curriculum into our performing arts curriculum and the skills and knowledge learnt are retrieved and built upon through drama, dance and performance too.

Our music curriculum is divided into five clear sections:

Voice (singing)  
Listening  
Musicianship  
Composition  
Performance

These five sections cover the inter-related dimensions of music : beat, rhythm, pitch, timbre, texture, dynamics, tempo.

Across these five areas there is a clear progression of skills and knowledge delivered by our specialist teams. Learning is incremental and regularly retrieved to ensure that children take this knowledge with them throughout their Fulbridge career. Every week, our performing arts provision consists of one-and-a-half hours of timetable allocation.

Our 'Fulbridge Listening Pieces' have been designed by our music lead to offer the children diverse and high quality music exposure exploring a whole range of musical genres. Children are encouraged to listen to music carefully and articulate what they can hear, the tempo, the genre and how the music makes them feel and why.

All children have access to playing a musical instrument including: percussion (untuned and tuned), chime bars, xylophones, keyboards and an experience of music technology.

Our children love to sing and we have nurtured and grown that passion. Singing begins in our nursery setting and at EYFS the children sing everyday, listening and singing nursery rhymes and songs for their christmas performance. By the end of Year 6, they are able to sing complicated rhythms, a wide range of notes and maintain their own part with confidence. We ensure children learn posture, healthy voice, projection, pitch and range.

Regular chance for the children to demonstrate their musical learning comes through composition. Not only does it provide a great opportunity for assessment but also gives the children a chance to develop their musical creativity and voice.

We recognise that music is a universal language and is often one of the most accessible subjects for children whether they are SEND, have EAL or new to the country and little English language.

At Fulbridge, we see the importance in performance opportunities for the children to practise and apply their musical learning. Every year, the group gets the chance to perform in our specially designed performing arts studio with a stage, curtains, lighting rig, sound equipment, microphones. We believe in giving children the authentic experience of performing so they can feel like true musicians/actors/performers which they might not necessarily have access to outside of the school setting. Similarly, we have a music room set up with all our musical resources and equipment that allows children to have an authentic musical experience.

## **Extra-curricular Music**

Children at Fulbridge have the opportunity to join extra-curricular clubs including our school singing club. Children in the singing club get the chance to perform in school, at school events and in the local community.

Those children wishing to explore music outside of school and for those individuals who we think are exceeding in their lessons are signposted to The Peterborough Centre for Young Musicians. Through our links with our local Music Hub we have several children learning instruments at their weekend classes and offer funding for those families that require it.

Additional performing opportunities include a school dance club who perform at The Cresset and school events.

## **Musical Experiences**

The children perform to audiences multiple times over each academic year. This includes to class peers and staff in our autumn term skills showcase and at the end of the summer term in their end of year performance to family and friends. These end of year performances are a musical that the children have learnt, rehearsed and performed during their lessons. All of the knowledge and skills learnt through their music lessons is applied within the shows.

There are also extra-curricular performance opportunities such as dance showcases, school events, singing in the community, at Four Cs MAT events that the children participate in.

Through our engagement with The Peterborough Music Hub we sought out opportunities for the children to experience high quality live performances involving singers and music ensembles/orchestras such as Britten Sinfonia, The Sixteen and performances at our local theatres. The whole of year four will be going to watch a live orchestral performance of The Snowman and the Snowdog at The New Theatre.

## **In the future**

At Fulbridge Academy, we are committed to providing exceptional musical education. Through our strong partnership with the Peterborough Music hub, we will continue to offer enriching experiences, including live performances and interactions with professional musicians.

At Fulbridge, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum and through research understand the importance of forging links across subjects to enhance the children's learning and understanding. With this in mind we are developing a musical links curriculum to weave into our whole school curriculum. For example when the children learn in Geography "A Road Trip Across the USA" the children will listen to some Country Music.