

Music development plan summary: Co-op Academy Medlock

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-6
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ruth Nutton-Jones
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	(As above)
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Primary Robins Partnership (Grange Park Opera) Olympias Music Foundation (Manchester) Manchester Grammar School outreach

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.

Music Curriculum Statement

The KS1 and KS2 Music curriculum at Co-op Academy Medlock fully encompasses the National Curriculum's aims, attainment targets and subject content. Further than this, it also draws from / references the Model Music Curriculum for Years 1 to 6. Further details of the EYFS, KS1 & KS2 Music Curriculum long term plans and the overall music learning journey are published on our Academy website.

Music is taught in a mixed offering with class teachers in some years supported by a music specialist who ensures, alongside the subject lead, that implementation is strong. All classes receive at least 30 minutes of curriculum time each week, using an Academy written scheme of work which has been adapted for the school to create a bespoke LTP.

In Early Years, pupils follow a holistic approach to music making which includes guided, adult led and child initiated opportunities both inside and out. There is a strong emphasis on rhyme and responding to music and how music making can strengthen the Prime Areas of learning. In Tiny Acorns, our 2-3 year-old setting, our children take part in adult-led 'Tiny Voices' sessions. From Mighty Oaks (3-4 year old nursery) onwards the children have a discrete teacher led group music session which supports wider thematic learning. Each session includes opportunities for children to listen and appraise, sing, play and perform as well as developing early evaluation skills. Children then have opportunities to respond creatively as well as refine and develop key skills taught in their independent play.

In years 1-6, teachers follow progressive and carefully written medium term planning developed by the subject leader with the support of the Greater Manchester Music Hub. These have been specifically structured using a spiral model so that pupils revisit and further develop their understanding; focused on incremental learning of core skills through repetition of practical activities and content. This includes practical knowledge for music making as well as theoretical knowledge including music appreciation. Further to this, the learning supports and enhances the learning in other curriculum areas, where appropriate, in particular humanities and gives pupils opportunities to transfer and apply their knowledge from other curriculum areas.

Each lesson includes aspects of four key elements: listening, singing, playing (performing), and creating (composition and improvisation) and children are taught from the beginning to evaluate their own work and that of others. This is supplemented by two years of whole class singing tuition in years 2 and 3 and a further two years of instrumental tuition. In year 4, the children spend a year learning descant recorder - with the option to continue this learning in the rest of KS2 and in year 5 the children learn the ukulele.

Within each unit of work, pupils will encounter a range of musical pieces either from the same musician or similar genre. Exploring the work of musicians such as Saint Saens, Villa Lobos, and Florence Price enables the children to see how music has been used as a way of responding to the world around them and the impact that they (and others) have on it. The pupils also re-encounter musicians and musical genres so that they can compare their work (how they have responded to different themes) and see how their work might vary based on the arrangement or instrument choice. Alongside this, year

groups have a set listening long term plan which carefully maps out musical opportunities that link directly to wider learning.

This year the school is working to ensure that all children access further music curriculum delivery through visiting musical experiences, music in assemblies and in our Listening and Appraising Long term plan which links to all key history and geography themes, ensuring that the 'music entitlement' is equivalent to an hour weekly.

In years 2 and 3 there are further musical opportunities through our partnership with Grange Park Opera and the Primary Robins scheme. Each class receives an additional 30 minutes of singing instruction from a trained classical vocalist.

Details of the academy's Music curriculum can be found on the academy website [By clicking here...](#)

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.

In addition to the core Music curriculum, children in years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to continue to play recorder or pick up a new woodwind instrument and to develop their singing and ensemble skills. These include :

- small group and one to one instrumental tuition recorder, flute, clarinet
- ensemble opportunities such recorder ensemble (descant, treble and tenor from year 5 onwards)
- the school choir

The academy works in partnership with One Education and uses internal expertise to provide this suite of music tuition. The academy does not charge for this tuition and where possible all children who are interested are provided with the opportunity to learn an instrument beyond their 'We Can Play' sessions. All students who take part in additional music tuition are provided with their own instrument to loan and are

signposted to additional opportunities to practise and play in ensembles through our links with Manchester (One Ed) Music Centres.

The academy is proactive in ensuring high levels of participation in extracurricular music activities from disadvantaged and SEND students and in fact our choir and ensembles are particularly well represented (over 50% PP) and pupil voice is incredibly positive for these opportunities.

The school has a close working relationship with Olympias Music Foundation to ensure that even more of our pupils have the opportunity to learn an instrument beyond school - with a number of pupils now receiving tuition towards graded qualifications.

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.

There are many other musical experiences and opportunities which take place throughout the year, and which either expose students to music or give them direct participation in music.

All children in Years R-6 have the opportunity to perform to parents / whole school in ensemble performances at least twice a year, culminating in a our Summer Musical Celebration each year.

All children from R-6 take part in either One Education run musical experiences or (for Year 5) or the Halle orchestra day.

Children from years 2-6 are invited to join the school choir. All choir children have the opportunity to participate in performances, including: Christmas Performances, performances in the local community singing for Brunswick Village and University of Manchester

Children in KS2 have the opportunity to play in small ensembles, made up of different woodwind instruments and perform their music to an audience at least termly.

All children who play an orchestral instrument (in or out of school) have the opportunity to take part in a shared Christmas concert and multi-school orchestra through our links with MGS (Manchester Grammar School).

Our students also have the opportunity to take part in Trust-wide musical events such as Young Musician of the Year, or the Trust Musical production

Each year all students have the opportunity to hear live music in school and set year groups beyond school (as set out in our LTPs).

In the future

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

With reference to the 7 features of high-quality music provision, Co-op Academy Medlock is fully committed to further developing and enhancing the strong provision that is already in place for our students

Timetabled music equivalent to at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 and 2

Our Academy Development Plan for music has highlighted that we want to continue to develop the curriculum offer that our students experience and ensure that all year groups from 1-6 have an equitable musical offer (of 1 hour musical teaching) across the timetable. Music and music appreciation to feature in every assembly, which will ensure that every student is exposed to a wide range of styles and genres each week and over the year.

Further develop the electronic music offer - including professional development for the subject lead and class teachers.

Seek support from experts to provide training and resources to enable us to deliver an outstanding music offer in our SEND provision

Greater access to musical tuition across a wider range of instruments

With a clear flightpath in place for students to access free instrumental tuition in woodwind, the academy is looking to explore how we can widen access to a greater range of instrumental opportunities.

Ringfence funding for additional music tuition through partnership with Rocksteady

Develop a self-sustaining recorder ensemble/choir

Build on the success of instrumental tuition beyond year 4s 'We can play'. Develop players in order to be able to continue descant; add treble, tenor or bass. Forge links with the recorder programme at RNCM (Royal Northern College of Music). At least 25 children to have the opportunity to continue.

Choir and vocal ensembles

Continue to build on the well established school choir by providing students with a greater range of opportunities to perform and forging links with choirs beyond our own academy. Development of tri-choir festival for the 3 Co-op Manchester primary academies as well as the opportunity to perform with local secondary academies. Singers in years 2 and 3 to take part in termly concerts for families

Develop opportunities for singing with community stakeholders such as Brunswick Village; carol singing and community events

Future learning/Careers

Further embed explicit careers based learning in music to support aspiration and opportunity for all our pupils. Ensure that opportunities are built in to medium term plans for each year group across the year and that all year groups have the opportunity to hear from a person working within the music industry.