

Music development plan summary: The Queenswell Federation

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	2nd September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Annually
Name of the school music lead	Mr Panos Lysandrou
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Liz Longworth
Name of local music hub	Barnet Education Arts Trust * (B.E.A.T)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	- Barnet Education Arts Trust (B.E.A.T) - Rocksteady

Curriculum music

At The Queenswell Federation, our music curriculum intends to inspire creativity, self-expression and encourage our children on their musical journeys as well as giving them opportunities to connect with others. We hope to foster a lifelong love of music by exposing them to diverse musical experiences and igniting a passion for music. By listening and responding to different musical styles, finding their voices as singers and performers and as composers, this will enable them to become confident, innovative and reflective musicians. The national curriculum states '*Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity*' and this is achieved through our curriculum. Our aim is for all children to leave The Queenswell Federation as confident singers, performers and musicians.

Learning at Queenswell is an exciting and challenging experience for each child. There is a strong emphasis on delivering all areas of the music curriculum to a high standard, so that each child experiences a broad and balanced music curriculum, developing skills, knowledge, understanding and performance. The intent of our curriculum is:

- To ensure all children and young people have access to a broad range of high quality musical opportunities in school settings, through which they can pursue their interests and achieve their potential.
- To engage with the music curriculum and access high quality music opportunities.
- To use a range of musical instruments across the curriculum and federation.

We deliver music lessons across the Federation for one hour a week which follows the national model music curriculum (*March 2021*) and our own Queenswell curriculum to reflect the national curriculum for music. All pupils across the federation, including children with S.E.N.D and pupils attending in the ARP, participate in a wide range of music and singing activities within our inclusive and diverse nucleus for high quality music lessons across the federation. Our music lessons allow the opportunity:

- To focus relentlessly on inclusion at all levels of our school being clear that musical diversity will be the driver for ensuring full access to all.
- To recognise every participating student as an individual with their particular abilities, needs and aspirations.

Queenswell has a close partnership with the Barnet Educational Arts trust (B.E.A.T) which is our local music hub lead by Ros Savournin. This offers a wide range of music opportunities in our school and at their music hub. The B.E.A.T music festival offer currently comprises the BEAT Infant Music Festivals (annually each autumn, for Year 2) and the Barnet Schools Music Festivals (annually each summer, Junior Choir). This offer place singing resources in schools that:

- Contain good quality, age-appropriate repertoire, selected for its potential to engage students and enable them to progress as young singers and musicians;
- Are supported by high quality materials including support for teaching, recordings, whiteboard resources, and ideas for creative work and other extension activities that link to the requirements of the music curriculum;
- Enable schools over time to build up a library of singing resources covering a diversity of musical genres and representing music from different times, places and cultures;
- Include CPD in singing leadership;
- Provide opportunities for schools to perform for, and see the performances of, other schools;
- Expose teachers and children to high quality singing leadership at the festivals themselves;
- Provide light-touch CPD for school staff, through supportive school visits to help with teaching the materials, and through exposure to ideas and good practice when they see other schools rehearse and perform;

BEAT have identified Queenswell as a 'Music School' with good singing and music provision relative to the model music curriculum and non-statutory guidance.

Co-curricular music & Music within the extended curriculum

At Queenswell we offer instrument lessons across the federation during school hours. Our mission is to provide high quality instrument lessons for our children to develop a life-long love of music and realise their musical potential whilst developing their personal and social identity. The Barnet Educational Arts Trust (B.E.A.T) offers a wide range of lessons such as: Piano, woodwind and brass lessons. Our website and music page also offers our community links with local music schools and music teachers around the local community within the borough.

We are also in connection with Rocksteady music school which offers school bands where children learn to play instruments in a band setting. This offers the children opportunities to demonstrate our school values which are: teamwork, responsibility, resilience, humour, respect and compassion. Below explains how this is implemented within the Federation:

- Learning an instrument should be fun. Children can choose from the electric guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals and enjoy playing in a happy, supportive environment with their friends.
- Our Rocksteady music teacher should also be their role model. Which is why all Rocksteady Band Leaders (Mr James Burton) is a carefully chosen, extensively trained musician who knows how to inspire a life-long love of playing music.
- Lessons are 30 minutes long and take place in school time with all instruments provided, making it hassle-free for parents/carers
- The Rocksteady Programme is for all children aged 4-11 and is proven to progress musicianship, confidence and teamwork skills with no prior experience necessary.
- Playing on stage is a huge confidence booster. With termly concerts at school, our children are able to show off their progress to friends, teachers and parents/carers with the rest of their band.

We have a range of musical opportunities across the extended curriculum such as our very popular school choir which includes a diverse and inclusive group of children of all ages across the federation. We do not charge any admission fee for children to join the school choir as our ethos strongly entails that music and singing should be accessed by everyone who is passionate and enjoys singing. Our school choir participates in a wide range of musical and community events across the year:

- Christmas songs at the Barnet Spires raising awareness for Cherry Lodge Cancer Trust
- In school christmas songs to help raise funding for our school
- Christmas songs and turning on of the Christmas tree light for 'Love Whetstone'
- Our annual Christmas carol service
- Vocalists for our annual winter concerts
- Songs for our yearly school production

- Yearly music festivals (B.E.A.T)
- Vocalists and musicians for our annual Summer concerts.

Children across the school are able to use both the music room and piano room during their lunch breaks and Friday afternoon as music enrichment to practise and rehearse for upcoming events, concerts and other community events.

Musical events

At Queenswell we relish the opportunity to give our creatives the chance to perform on various occasions throughout the academic year. This involves children in our school choir, vocal ensembles, school bands, individual musicians and classes. Here are some of our musical experiences throughout the year:

- Singing assemblies for key stages 1 & 2
- Song contests (*classes across the federation*)
- B.E.A.T annual infant music festival (*Year 2 class*)
- Christmas carols at Baxendale care home (*Choir*)
- Christmas carol busking at Barnet Spires for Cherry Lodge Cancer care charity fundraising (*Choir*)
- Christmas carols at 'Love Whetstone' (*Choir*)
- Annual christmas carol service/nativity (*Whole school & Choir*)
- Winter instrument recital (*Children who partake in in-school lessons with our B.E.A.T teachers*)
- Winter Rocksteady concert (*Children who take part in Rocksteady band lessons*)
- Winter concert (*range of musicians and vocalists across the Junior school, including the school band*)
- Yearly school production (*year 6, band & choir*)
- International evening community event (*children across the federation to sing, dance and other cultural performances*)
- B.E.A.T annual junior music festival (*choir children years 4 - 6*)
- Summer instrument recital (*Children who partake in in-school lessons with our B.E.A.T teachers*)
- End of year singalong (*Nursery*)
- End of year singalong (*Reception*)
- End of year singalong (*Year 1*)
- End of year production (*Year 2*)
- Summer Rocksteady concert (*Children who take part in Rocksteady band lessons*)

Our musical future

We aim to continue to deliver music lessons across the Federation (key stages 1 & 2) for one hour a week which follows the national model music curriculum (March 2021), the national curriculum and our own Queenswell curriculum which continues to reflect on the national music curriculum. We will continue to support children in EYFS with weekly singing sessions. As our school already fosters an inclusive and diverse approach to teaching pupils including children with S.E.N.D (*including children who attend the ARP*), they will continue to participate in a wide range of music and singing lessons that promotes high quality music across our federation.

With the successes with Barnet Educational Arts Trust (BEAT), the Federation will continue with this partnership to ensure all children have the opportunity to play a wide range of instruments like piano, woodwinds and brass. Rocksteady will continue to provide exciting, enjoyable band sessions which allow our children to progress using both instruments and voice.

Year on year, the Federation's choir has been popular and successful. Children will continue to have multiple opportunities across the academic year to participate, perform and represent our Federation through vocal ensembles.

The Federation will continue to give the chance to children who are gifted and talented to perform in various school events across the academic year. The school band offers opportunities for children to practise, socialise and share their musical talents. Furthermore, children are encouraged to practise and rehearse during lunchtimes and Friday afternoon through interventions and enrichments, in addition to being allowed access to the piano room to practise and rehearse as they wish.

To continue a passion for live musical performances, we always ensure that children have the opportunity to perform in live school productions and various other live concerts and events. To help the children achieve this, we foster a culture of seeing a variety of live and high quality shows so that children are exposed to outstanding vocal and musical performances from soloists, ensemble and choir groups across the Federation.