Music development plan summary: Uxendon Manor Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	L Price-Nowak
Name of local music hub	London West Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Brent Music Service

Since 2024, Uxendon Manor Primary School has been the Lead Primary School for music in Brent. In 2025, our Junior Choir won the Brent Primary School Choir of the Year competition. They were previously runners up in 2023.

The information below 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.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about how the music curriculum is organised at our school: who teaches music, how long for, how often, what we teach and the opportunities all children have access to.

Music is taught from Nursery to Year 6 by specialist music teachers from Brent Music Service, following their 'MusicsCool' curriculum. Children receive weekly 30-minute whole class music lessons with their specialist teacher. This lesson is taught in partnership with the class teacher and additional supporting adults, who follow up that week's learning with a further 30-minute practice session. Children are assessed on an ongoing basis and those who show a particular aptitude for music are encouraged to take up extra-curricular opportunities.

The MusicsCool programme is carefully designed and structured to follow the National Curriculum for music and builds musical skills and knowledge progressively across year groups. Singing is at the heart of the curriculum and children are introduced to the

Kodaly ‘solfa’ method to develop their internalised pitch. Alongside this, children are taught rhythmic and beat skills, music notation, composition, improvisation, ensemble playing, instrumental skills and musical listening and appreciation. All children are given the opportunity to perform to their peers and family members at least once each year.

All children have the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments as part of their whole class curriculum music lessons for at least one academic year:

- Violin (Year 1 only)
- Recorder (Year 2 upwards)
- Tamboo Bamboo (Year 4 only)
- Ukulele (Year 4 upwards)
- Djembe drumming (Year 5 only)
- Samba percussion (Year 6 only)

At Uxendon Manor, we believe that all children should have the opportunity to be the best musicians that they can be. To this end, we work carefully with specialist BMS staff to ensure that the curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all learners. The partnership between class teacher, teaching assistant and BMS is essential to this as it combines the class teachers’ individualised knowledge of the children with the subject-specific expertise of the BMS tutor. A variety of bespoke means are used in order to support all learners, including those with SEND. As a result, all children make excellent progress

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.

At Uxendon Manor we offer a wide variety of extra-curricular music to anyone who would like to participate. Due to the popularity of these opportunities, children may be placed on a waiting list at first. While all the clubs/lessons described below are open to anyone, we strongly encourage all children who have been identified as ‘ready’ (i.e. showing a particular aptitude for music) to participate in at least one extracurricular opportunity.

Small group instrumental tuition is offered in keyboard, guitar or violin. These 30-minute weekly lessons are taught during school time by a qualified specialist instrument teacher visiting the school. Guitar, tumpet and keyboard lessons can be taken from Year 3 upwards, and violin is offered from Year 2 upwards. There is a charge for lessons, although additional subsidy may be available for pupils depending on financial circumstances and eligibility.

In 2024 we introduced Rocksteady club, in which children learn rock and pop songs in bands of up to nine children. They have the choice of keyboard, electric guitar, bass guitar, vocals or drums. Rocksteady is open to anyone who wants to join from Y1-Y6 and is booked directly through Rocksteady Music School.

We are proud of our strong choirs at Uxendon Manor. Last year, our Junior Choir were crowned 'Brent Primary School Choir of the Year'. The KS2 choirs have seen a significant rise in popularity in the past two years and currently number over 100 children. The rehearsals all take place during lunch times. Additionally, we run a Year 2 choir from Autumn 2 onwards. Anyone is free to join, although we expect commitment to attending weekly rehearsals. There are many opportunities for performances and trips for the choirs, for example taking part in massed events such as 'Voice in a Million' at Wembley Arena as well as performances in the local community.

There is also a school orchestra, which meets weekly in lunch time. It is open to anyone who has been learning their instrument for at least one year (this could be in school or outside). The orchestra is free of charge to join, but once pupils have joined they are expected to practice at home and attend every rehearsal.

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.

Alongside weekly music lessons, in 2024 we introduced a weekly 30-minute singing assembly for KS1-KS2. Each phase (KS1, LKS2, UKS2) participates weekly for one half-term period. In these fun assemblies the children are taught a variety of songs and enjoy singing together.

In addition to the opportunities described above, we plan a range of trips and workshops to enable children to see and hear live music performances. These include:

- Regular trips to the Royal Albert Hall for a cross curricular music/maths workshop.
- Year 5 term-long workshop series with the Apollo Music Project.
- Year 4 'History of Sound' workshop with Vache Baroque.
- KS2 choir trip to 'Voice in a Million' massed event at Wembley Arena
- KS2 choir participation in Brent Primary Choir of the Year competition

In the future

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

We are developing the school music provision by focusing on the following improvements in our curriculum, extracurricular provision and

Curriculum

- To introduce music technology into the curriculum.
- To increase opportunities for boys to engage in singing across the school.
- To begin developing a clearer transition pathway for Year 6 children, ensuring readiness for Year 7 music.