



Music Development Plan at Drumbeat

At Drumbeat, our Music Development Plan is intentionally designed to meet the unique sensory and communication profiles of our autistic learners. Guided by national standards but tailored for neurodiversity, we prioritise a curriculum that transforms music into a functional tool for self-expression, sensory regulation as well as skill development. We provide a rich music curriculum that encourages an understanding and appreciation of a variety of musical styles and cultural contexts. Practical lessons cover singing, rhythm, and instrumental skills, whilst involvement in performances cultivates confidence and enhances interpersonal skills. Collaborative music-making develops teamwork and communication, reflecting the importance of music in our shared experiences. It focuses on structured, sensory-rich and adaptable activities using visual aids, simple instruments, music tech, and themed approaches to build confidence, communication and social skills. The music curriculum at Drumbeat is interwoven into all areas of learning and sets out how pathways can access a variety of musical elements and incorporate these into a variety of musical experiences.

Our personalised approach focuses on:

- **Sensory engagement:** We move beyond traditional instruction to focus on the tactile and auditory joys of music. By integrating singing and rhythm into daily routines and assemblies, we provide students with predictable, soothing, and engaging sensory anchors throughout their school day.
- **Specialised Communication:** Recognising that many of our pupils use alternative communication, we integrate music with visual supports and a variety of communication approaches.
- **Emotional Regulation & Well-being:** Music is not just a subject but a collaborative experience that fosters confidence, reduces anxiety, and builds social connections in a safe, inclusive environment.
- **Cultural & Practical Exploration:** Our curriculum balances practical skill-building—such as exploring cause and effect through instruments—with a broad exposure to

different sounds and cultures, helping our pupils expand their world through auditory exploration.

- **Skill development:** Music is fostered further through direct teaching by musical skilled staff in school, through choirs as well as weekly, specified lessons, building on themes and a variety of musical strands, supporting individuality as well as a collaborative approach. This can be seen through assemblies and a variety of musical performances throughout the school year.
- **Progression:** This is highlighted through the pathways as well as musical strands/elements being explored within our curriculum.

Development Actions

Our future plans will involve:

- Developing collaborative teaching across all three sites and to also include external musical collaborations with musical experiences.
- Develop further work with music partners including: The London Symphony Orchestra, The 12 Choirs at Christmas. Lewisham Music Hub and Trinity Laban, with live interactive performances taking place for pupils of all levels to access, regardless of starting point.
- Develop more cross special schoolwork, sharing of resources and visiting each other's schools to join in musical sessions and experiences.