Intent

At Arbour Vale, the intent of the music curriculum is to provide a fully inclusive, accessible, and engaging musical experience for all pupils, regardless of need or ability.

Music is used as a tool to:

- Develop communication and self-expression
- Support emotional regulation and wellbeing
- Build confidence and social interaction
- Encourage creativity and independence

The curriculum is:

- Adapted from the National Curriculum
- Structured to meet PMLD, SLD, and ASD needs
- Designed with progression through sensory → exploratory → structured musical learning

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Implementation

Curriculum Delivery

- Weekly 45–50-minute music lessons
- Delivered through formal, semi-formal, and informal pathways
- Based on Charanga SEND schemes + adapted materials

Teaching Approaches

- Multi-sensory learning (sound, movement, visuals, tactile)
- Use of assistive technology:
    - Soundbeam 6
    - Cosmo
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- Thematic learning (e.g. Rainforest, Reptiles, Sea-side)

Musical Opportunities

- Whole-school singing in assemblies

- Choirs across KS3, KS4, and post-16
- iRock bands (36 pupils)
- Instrumental lessons (piano, guitar, drums)
- Sound Vibration Therapy

Performance Opportunities

- Christmas productions
- Termly talent shows
- External concerts (Voice in a Million, Slough events)

Impact

Pupils at Arbour Vale:

- Show increased confidence and willingness to perform
- Develop communication skills, including non-verbal expression
- Demonstrate engagement and enjoyment in music
- Make progress in:
    - Listening and attention
    - Motor skills
    - Social interaction

Evidence of Impact

- Performance outcomes
- EHCP targets linked to music
- Engagement levels in lessons
- Parent feedback
- Participation rates

Key Strengths

- Strong inclusive ethos
- Wide range of musical experiences
- Excellent external partnerships
- High levels of student engagement

Areas for Development

- Formalising progression frameworks
- Embedding consistent assessment methods
- Expanding instrumental uptake

EYFS / PMLD (Exploratory Stage)

Focus: Sensory engagement

Pupils:

- Respond to sounds (smiling, movement)
- Explore instruments freely
- Experience cause and effect (press → sound)
- Engage in sensory music stories

KS1 (Early Development Stage)

Focus: Participation

Pupils:

- Join in with songs and actions
- Play instruments with support
- Recognise familiar sounds
- Begin turn-taking

KS2 (Developing Stage)

Focus: Control & choice

Pupils:

- Play simple rhythms
- Make choices in music-making
- Perform in small groups
- Respond to different types of music

KS3 (Structured Stage)

Focus: Skill-building

Pupils:

- Perform with increasing control
- Play instruments in groups
- Compose simple pieces
- Recognise musical elements

KS4 (Application Stage)

Focus: Independence

Pupils:

- Perform confidently
- Participate in bands/ensembles
- Use music technology
- Make creative decisions

Post-16 (Personalisation Stage)

Focus: Expression & independence

Pupils:

- Engage in music for wellbeing
- Perform in community events

- Develop personal musical interests
- Use music as communication