

Music development plan summary: [John Spence Community High School]

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Mr Damien Graezer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Louise Bray
Name of local music hub	North Tyneside Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Across Key Stage 3, students develop their musical knowledge and practical skills through a broad and varied curriculum.

In **Year 7**, they explore the *Elements of Music* and gain foundational performance skills through *keyboard* and *ukulele* study, alongside an introduction to *folk music*.

In **Year 8**, students deepen their understanding of musical structure and style through topics such as *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, *Theme and Variation*, *African Music*, and *Pentatonic Melodies*.

By **Year 9**, they apply their skills more creatively, studying *chord progressions* and *musical architecture* while exploring genres including *Blues* and *Reggae*, and composing for *film* and *computer games*.

We support students with disabilities and special educational needs (SEND) through the use of differentiated resources and tasks, ensuring that all pupils can access and engage with the music curriculum at an appropriate level. Support staff work alongside teachers to provide targeted assistance, adapt activities where necessary, and help students develop their musical skills and confidence.

Students receive one hour of classroom music per week throughout Years 7, 8, and 9.

Students have the opportunity to learn keyboard, ukulele, tuned and untuned percussion, guitar, and music technology through whole-class ensemble teaching. In addition, they can access peripatetic lessons for keyboard, guitar, and voice. Pupils are also able to join the Youth Choir, a collaborative project between the school, other local schools, and the local music hub, led by curriculum staff and a music hub member. Furthermore, students can participate in the 'Emerging Artists Program,' where they develop their musicianship with industry-standard professionals.

Students have the option to study NCFE Music Technology as a Technical Award, and those receiving instrumental lessons can pursue graded music exams through ABRSM.

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.

Music Tuition

Students are offered the opportunity to study piano/keyboard, guitar, and voice through individual and small-group tuition delivered by specialist peripatetic teachers. Access to instrumental tuition is supported for pupil premium students, with costs covered through the Pupil Premium fund.

Whole-Class Teaching

As part of the classroom music curriculum, all students participate in whole-class ensemble teaching on a range of instruments, including keyboard, ukulele, tuned and untuned percussion, guitar, and music technology.

Ensembles and Music-Making Opportunities

The school provides a rich variety of opportunities for students to engage in music-making beyond lesson time. These include collaborative performance projects with the Drama Department, participation in the Youth Choir (a partnership between local schools and the Music Education Hub), and involvement in the Emerging Artists Programme, where students work with industry professionals to further develop their musicianship. Students are also encouraged to participate in community-based music projects in collaboration with local artists.

Progression and Access

To support continued progress in music, the school can arrange instrument hire through the local Music Education Hub. Students are also able to attend the Saturday Morning Music School, delivered in partnership with the Hub, which is open to all pupils expressing an interest.

Facilities and Practice Opportunities

The school benefits from a dedicated music classroom, three practice rooms, and a drama studio, all of which are available for individual and group rehearsals outside of timetabled lessons. These facilities provide students with space to develop their practical skills and pursue independent music-making.

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.

The school provides a wide range of musical experiences for students throughout the academic year. Pupils have the opportunity to participate in performances linked to agreed community projects, including:

- Hector Gannet
- Opera at The Exchange, North Shields
- Collaborative projects with Northumbria University
- Music Hub concerts at Christmas and Summer
- Opportunities to perform in collaborative productions with the Music and Drama departments

These performance opportunities are open to students across Key Stages 3 and 4 and are free of charge, ensuring that all pupils can take part regardless of financial circumstances.

In addition, the school provides access to careers-based music events, which take place in industry settings, offering students insight into professional pathways in music.

These experiences are supported through partnerships with the local Music Education Hub, universities, and community arts organisations, ensuring a broad and inclusive range of opportunities for all pupils.

In the future

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

The school plans to implement a new scheme of work in Year 7 and develop updated schemes of work in Years 8 and 9 to strengthen progression into Key Stage 4 music study. In addition, the school aims to expand the offer of peripatetic lessons and enhance the Arts Academy provision for Key Stage 3 students, ensuring wider access to specialist music tuition and creative opportunities. The school also intends to increase engagement with community-based projects within the local area, providing students with additional performance opportunities and experiences that enrich their musical education. These developments are designed to support high-quality music provision, promote progression, and broaden participation across the school community.

Further information (optional)

The school works in partnership with the North Tyneside Music Education Hub to support and enhance our music provision.