

Music Development Plan summary: Prudhoe West Academy

Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025/26 |
| Date this summary was published | 30th September 2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | 30th September 2026 |
| Name of the school music lead | Katie Falcus |
| Name of local music hub | Music Partnership North |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | North Tyneside Music Education Hub |

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

| Current provision |
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| <p>Our vision is to provide our young people with the platform from which to be creative, to express themselves, find success and share these experiences, talents and abilities through performance. We aim for all young people to develop a lifelong love of music, to enjoy, thrive, succeed and achieve their full potential in music, regardless of background, language, gender, or special educational needs. We are passionate about developing and promoting music through an enjoyable, exciting and creative curriculum, taught using a wide range of professional standard musical instruments and resources.</p> <p>In September 2024, Music Partnership North awarded us with Singing School Ambassador status. To receive this award, we had to have clear progression routes incorporating effective evaluation, opportunities for pupils to perform both in and out of school, a choir/ vocal ensemble in school and CPD opportunities for pupils.</p> <p>We have timetabled weekly music lessons in all year groups following the 'Charanga Model Music' scheme, which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music. This year we created our</p> |



own two year cycle plan within Charanga, to fit around our new mixed-age classes. By using the Charanga scheme and its progressive week-by-week lessons, we meet all the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum and progress is evident through observations and our progression documents. Discussions with children have demonstrated an increasing knowledge of key music vocabulary being recalled. Observations have shown all pupils engaged and active during the lessons, including SEND pupils. We have a wide range of percussion instruments that can be used in conjunction with the lessons. The Listen and Appraise element of the lessons ensures a variety of music and genres are listened to and discussed. Teachers are growing in confidence with understanding the musical elements as well as teaching children how to listen to and appreciate a piece of music.

[Music sequence of learning document](#)

[Elements of Music Progression spiral - Charanga](#)

[Learning progression - Charanga](#)

[Music curriculum intent](#)

Our EYFS children have a daily morning song time, free outdoor instrument choosing time, nursery rhyme time, music within Maths and other transitional songs. They also have weekly Music lessons with teacher led instrument exploration.

[Reception long term Music plan \(Charanga\)](#)

[Nursery long term nursery rhyme plan](#)

[EYFS long term Music plan](#)

We recognise that in all classes, children have a wide range of musical abilities, and so we seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways: Setting tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses or setting tasks of increasing difficulty etc.

We have positive links with Highfield Middle School and have met to discuss the curriculum on numerous occasions. Following a Music transition meeting in April 2024, Highfield Middle School commented on how “pupils come up from Prudhoe West with confidence to perform” which they said “makes the start of middle school much easier”.

Our future plans

Moving forward, we will be looking to further develop and enhance our existing provision that is in place for our young people. We aim to introduce music to our morning routine, so when the children enter the building they experience a range of different styles of music and how it makes them feel. This will link in with our children being able to identify their emotions and the impact that Music has on how you are feeling.

We would like to work further with Music Partnership North on developing our role as Singing Ambassador School. We need to find out what our next steps are and what else we need to do to deepen our role.

Staff would benefit from extra CPD to increase their confidence in teaching Music.

Part B: Extra-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.

| Current provision |
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| <p>We aim for our extra-curricular offer to be inspiring and matched to the needs of our young people.</p> <p>Our main extra curricular Music opportunity is our school Choir. All children from years 1 to 4 are welcome to participate in our weekly choir sessions and we currently have around 60 children. We sing for 30 minutes during the lunch hour and the children thoroughly enjoy it. Each half term, our choir leader asks the children for their song suggestions, and she then chooses songs from the list, as well as adding others that would be most suitable to the choir. Each year, we have between 60-100 children in the choir, including many Pupil Premium and SEN children. It is a wonderfully positive and fun environment, which also provides a safe space for children to come and switch off after a morning of lessons. When teaching the songs, the choir leader talks about the structure, dynamics required, call and response elements and many other things which help the children to fully understand the song they are singing. Over the years we have offered many opportunities to our school choir. [Please see Part C: Musical Experiences for more information]</p> <p>In September 2024, we began our journey with the Music company ‘Rocksteady’. <i>“Rocksteady is the leading provider of in-school band lessons for primary age children. Our inclusive approach helps children find a sense of belonging through new friendships and a shared love for music, whilst boosting social skills, wellbeing and confidence.”</i> - Rocksteadymusicschool.com. We advertised this opportunity to our parents/ carers in Summer 2024 and they then had the chance to sign their children up for lessons. They book and pay for their lessons directly with Rocksteady, and the lessons take place in our school hall once a week, culminating in a termly performance that the parents/ carers are invited to watch. We have access to an online portal to show us exactly how the children are progressing, and which National Curriculum objectives they are achieving. We currently have 17 children who attend lessons with Rocksteady including many Pupil Premium and SEN children.</p> <p>We currently have an external teacher who comes into school to teach private guitar lessons once a week. This is a service offered to the pupils for a fee, though this is not something that we are financially involved with. If children wish to take up a private Music lesson, we are able to provide contact details, and they can then book and pay for the sessions.</p> <p>This year we have adapted our weekly baby and toddler group - ‘Little Stars’, to make it half termly. This session will have crafts, snacks and toys, as well as a 20-30 minute music element. This is led by our Music lead, who organises a collection of songs based on the half termly theme. Each session starts and ends with the same songs; to provide familiarity to the babies and toddlers and the rest of the songs are all very interactive, including number and action songs. The sessions include the parents/ carers alongside the children, which helps to increase their confidence around singing with their children. Most of the babies and toddlers move from Little Stars into our 2 year old provision and then into our Nursery, where they continue to learn</p> |

the songs that we introduced in the toddler group. This head start has proven to be incredibly beneficial to their nursery rhyme recall and confidence once in EYFS.

Our future plans

Continuing to be inclusive, allowing all children from years 1 to 4 to join our choir if they wish. A more structured plan of the songs that we learn in choir and more performance opportunities in the Spring term.

Show our parents/carers what local Music/ performance services are available. Music Partnership North offers a huge amount of Music tuition to those who are interested in paying for the service. We will present this information to our parents and carers, showing them exactly what is to offer in our area.

[Music Partnership North - instrument tuition](#)

[North Tyneside Music Education Hub](#)

[DFE Parent/ carer guide of what is available](#)

[Newcastle Circus - up to 6 years old](#)

[Newcastle Circus - 6-11 years old](#)

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.

Current provision

Each week we have two assemblies, one of which is our singing celebration assembly. In this assembly, our Music lead teaches the children vocal warm ups, tongue twisters and songs themed to the time of year. We also use these assemblies to prepare for whole school performances throughout the year, such as our Harvest Festival, Christmas show and Carol Service. We do not charge our parents/ carers when they attend one of these events, but instead we ask for donations towards future performances. That money is then used towards sound and lighting, costumes, staging etc.

During the festive period, KS1 and KS2 attend a carol service at our local church. We have a variety of songs to perform at the carol service, which we practise during our singing assemblies.

Each year, our choir is divided up into small groups as we walk around the local area of Prudhoe visiting some care homes and residential homes. This is always greatly received by the people we visit and is a very special experience for our children.

Each year in our summer term, we host a Summer Choir concert and in December 2024 we had our first *Christmas* Choir Concert. This was held on the last day of term before the holidays and was a wonderful way of wishing everyone a happy holiday. We will continue to host this concert each year, as a celebration of the hard work the children have put into learning the songs, as well as a festive send off for the whole school. Also

in December 2024, we sang our way into the Northumberland Christmas Choir Competition final. This was an event set up by Music Partnership North and it was a fantastic morning of singing for our choir children. Due to the transport costs required to get to this event, we had to ask our parents/carers to contribute towards the cost of transport. This year we have entered into the competition again, but instead of asking parents/ carers for donations towards the cost of the coach, we are holding a bake sale to try and raise money to cover the cost. We will endeavour to enter our choir into more competitions such as this, should they become available.

In 2017 and 2018 we performed in the Metrocentre Christmas Choir competition for two years running and came in first place both years. This was an event completely funded by the Metrocentre. We have performed multiple times at the Newcastle Eagles Christmas basketball game, as half time entertainment, providing a night of fun for all children and parents who attended the event.

Over the Christmas period each year, we invite all children from years 1 to 4 to attend a pantomime with us. In previous years we have taken the children to the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, though for the last two years we have been to the Queens Hall in Hexham. This is an event that requires our parents/ carers to contribute towards the cost.

Our future plans

Adapt the current long term assembly plan by adding in the songs for each assembly, showing clearly how we link our songs to the time of year/ events at that time.

We would like to work more closely with Music Partnership North to develop future performance opportunities.

We will endeavour to look for local competitions or similar experiences to involve the children in.

Key points to develop

- Introduce Music to our morning routine
- Work with MPN on our role as Singing Ambassador School
- A more structured plan of the songs that we learn and more performance opportunities in the Spring term.
- Show our parents/carers what local Music/ performance services are available
- Adapt the current long term assembly plan by adding in the songs for each assembly.
- Join with MPN on future performance opportunities
- Look for local competitions or similar experiences