

Music development plan summary: Whittingham C of E Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Neil Charlton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Neil Charlton (Deputy Headteacher and Music Coordinator)
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North
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.

At Whittingham C of E Primary School, we have taken into account recent research and published documents, including the *Model Music Curriculum* and the latest *The Power Of Music To Change Lives*. We strive to ensure that high-quality education of Music, that meets all recommendations and the National Curriculum, is planned and delivered as required and beyond so that all children –no matter their circumstances or needs - can thrive in their musical education.

As part of our planning and sequencing of our Music curriculum, we have ensured that all aspects of music and the children's experiences of exploring music, both recorded, live and played are accessible. The aspects of music covered include musical vocabulary, composing, performing, musical history, listening and appraising as well as a sound understanding and use of the inter-related dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, duration, tempo, dynamics, texture and timbre). These lessons have been designed so that they are progressive and build-upon the children's knowledge and experiences year-on-year.

Our planning overview for Music at Whittingham C of E Primary School can be found on our website: <https://www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk/website/music/542511>

The Music curriculum at Whittingham C of E Primary School not only delivers above the requirements of the National Curriculum but provides performance opportunities as much as possible. This includes:

- links with the regional Music Hub (Music Partnership North),
- periodical specialist workshop lessons,
- regular performance opportunities: church services, class assemblies, Nativity and play/pantomime performances,
- whole school singing,
- the offer and promotion of individual musical instrument lessons,
- a school choir.

Much thought has also been put into the resources for music lessons. The Music Coordinator has provided training to staff as well as structured all the teaching resources so that high-quality teaching and learning will take place. We have also considered the requirements of high-quality music lessons in conjunction with the need for every child being able to engage with these lessons, no matter their circumstances or needs. As such, we have ensured our musical instruments are accessible to all, having purchased further percussion and pitched-percussion that all age groups and abilities can use effectively within their learning and experiences. These instruments are stored securely in a purpose-made musical storage area within school for access for all.

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.

Outside of lesson times, individual/ group lessons are promoted to pupils. This has had a small uptake and we always seek to develop this further. A dedicated and appropriate space for these lessons is allocated and collaboration with the specialist instrument teachers and parents is very strong. To support this too, through Music Partnership North, instrument loans are available and advertised to support pupils to access musical instruments.

We also run a school choir for part of the academic year that looks at both the techniques of singing as well as the enjoyment of performance. Just like within our music curriculum, the songs cover a wide range of musical styles and also reflect the children's personal choices and direction to progress further. Children are also able to use the iPads to create their own compositions during certain social times within school, using Garageband.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in church services, class assemblies, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

As part of our school calendar, we regularly take part in church services where the children sing several songs and hymns. Children at our school also have the benefit of experiencing shows where musical performance is a significant part, such as our school nativity and play performances.

In addition to this, we regularly organise several experiences of performance, both actively engaged and some as audience - previous engagement opportunities have included musical performances at The Alnwick Playhouse, Opera North, The Big Sing, Big Mini Sing, pantomimes and visiting instrument workshops. This is to provide the children with a rich and varied experience of music in different contexts and styles.

In the future

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

With a rejuvenated and honed Music curriculum, we will be implementing and embedding this even further during this academic year.

We will continue to deliver weekly, one-hour long lessons which will have impact and continue to be a catalyst for our children's enthusiasm and inspiration for music.

Individual group lessons will continue to be promoted and a dedicated area assigned for these lessons.

A school choir will again be in place for part of the academic year.

New musical instruments will be part of each year group's units of learning and we seek to expand this further with additions of some already identified instruments.

Staff training is already planned for this academic year and seeks to expand and further develop on staff knowledge and expertise.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.

The Government's National Plan for Music Education can be found via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education>

Further useful information about our regional music hub, Music Partnership North, can be found via this link: <https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/>