

Music Development Plan summary: Whitley Memorial CofE Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Joanne Dodd
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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 Whitley Memorial, we ensure we cover the National Curriculum for music. This aims to ensure that all pupils:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Pupils in Key Stage One will be taught to develop their musical skills by using their voices expressively and creatively through singing songs, speaking chants, and reciting rhymes. They will also have the opportunity to play both tuned and untuned instruments in a musical way. Additionally, pupils should be able to listen with concentration and understanding to a variety of high-quality live and recorded music. Furthermore, they will be encouraged to

experiment with, create, select, and combine different sounds, using the interrelated dimensions of music to develop their musical knowledge and skills.

Pupils in Key Stage Two will be taught to develop their musical abilities by singing and playing with increasing confidence and control, as well as gaining an understanding of musical composition, structure, and reproduction. They will also have the opportunity to play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and instruments with accuracy, fluency, control, and expression. Additionally, pupils will learn to improvise and compose music for various purposes, using the interrelated dimensions of music. They should also be able to listen with attention to detail, recall sounds with increasing aural memory, use and understand musical notations, appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality music from different traditions and great composers, and develop an understanding of the history of music.

The school utilises the Charanga music scheme to deliver the national curriculum for music education. Charanga is a comprehensive and engaging program that provides a structured approach to teaching music, covering a range of topics and skills from KS1 to KS2. The scheme is designed to ensure that pupils develop a deep understanding of music theory, notation, and composition, as well as performance and appreciation skills. Through Charanga, the school's music curriculum is carefully planned and delivered, ensuring that pupils receive a high-quality music education that meets the national requirements. The scheme also provides teachers with a wealth of resources, including lesson plans, videos, and interactive activities, making it easy to teach and assess pupil progress. By using Charanga, the school is confident that its pupils will develop a lifelong love of music and achieve their full potential in this subject.

The school has established a range of partnerships to support the delivery of its music curriculum. One of these partnerships is with the local church, which provides opportunities for pupils to participate in singing and music-making. Additionally, the school has partnered with Music Mark, a national organisation that aims to promote music education in schools. Through this partnership, the school has access to resources, expertise, and networking opportunities. The school is also part of Music Partnership North, a regional initiative that brings together schools, music educators, and other organisations to promote music education.

To learn more about our music curriculum, including the units taught across the school, we encourage you to visit our website at www.whitley.northumberland.sch.uk under 'Curriculum' then 'Wider Curriculum Overviews and Progression'. This will give you a detailed overview of our music education provision and help you understand how we support our pupils' musical development.

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.

In addition to the music education provided in lesson time, our school offers a range of music tuition opportunities outside of the curriculum. These extra sessions are designed to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their musical skills and interests further, and to give them the chance to learn from experienced music teachers. Our music tuition program includes one-to-one lessons, small-group tuition, and large-group sessions for a range of instruments and voice. We offer tuition for guitars, violins, piano, keyboard, and trumpets, allowing pupils to develop their skills and techniques on an instrument of their choice. We also have a weekly choir session, where pupils can come together to sing and develop their vocal skills. All of our music tuition sessions are weekly, and are either one-to-one or small-group based, providing pupils with personalised attention and support from our experienced external music teachers.

While our music tuition program is a valuable addition to our school's music education, some of the clubs may incur a charge due to being led by an external provider. If you are eligible for pupil premium, you may be able to receive financial assistance towards the cost of the club. Additionally, we also offer instruments themselves for loan or purchase, providing pupils with the opportunity to try out a new instrument without having to commit to buying one upfront. We believe that music education should be accessible to all, and we are committed to finding ways to make it possible for every pupil to participate in our music tuition program.

For pupils, who wish to practise, are encouraged to use spaces around the school, such as the library, during break times. The library is a quiet and comfortable space that is perfect for individual practice or small group rehearsals. We understand that music is an important part of our pupils' lives, and we want to provide them with the opportunities to develop their skills and talents.

Pupils are also made aware of music workshops, ensembles and tuition in the local area during the holiday periods. Further information is available by searching online for the Music Partnership North or visiting Facebook: @MPN.Northumberland.

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 Whitley is excited to share the musical experiences planned for the upcoming academic year. Throughout the year, pupils will have numerous opportunities to develop their musical skills and showcase their talents. Musical performances will be featured during our school celebrations of their work for parents, providing a platform for pupils to entertain and engage the audience. Furthermore, our termly show performance during singing assembly will give

pupils the opportunity to perform in front of their peers and receive feedback from their peers and teachers. We also plan to take trips to concerts outside of school, allowing pupils to experience live music performances and be inspired by professional musicians. These experiences will not only enhance their musical skills but also foster a sense of community and teamwork within the school. By providing a range of musical experiences, we aim to inspire a love of music in our pupils and equip them with the skills and confidence to pursue their musical interests.

Throughout the academic year, we provide our pupils with a diverse range of musical experiences that cater to different tastes and interests. One of the ways we do this is through special event days, where we invite students to explore different genres of music. For instance, our Numeracy Day celebration is a unique fusion of music and mathematics, where we use rock music to make learning more engaging and fun. These events not only provide pupils with the opportunity to listen to and appreciate different types of music, but also encourage them to think creatively and make connections between music and other subjects. By exposing our pupils to a wide range of musical genres and styles, we aim to foster a lifelong appreciation for music and its many benefits.

In the future

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

Going forward, we aim to implement class performances so that all children in the school have the opportunity to perform in front of an audience. Where pupils will have the chance to perform alongside their peers and develop their confidence as singers.

We aim to widen their experience of different songs during the singing workshops by creating a list of songs for each term.

We aim to provide our pupils with the opportunity to experience live performances at least once a year, ensuring that every child has the chance to engage with and appreciate the thrill of live music. This year we are taking the whole school to see a pantomime at local theatres.