

# Music development plan summary: Rockcliffe CE Primary School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	Sept 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sept 2026
Name of the school music lead	Hannah Scotson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Marie Jamieson
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music 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.

Music is taught by the teachers to whole classes, with opportunities for pupils to work whole class within small or large groups, in pairs or individually. There is dedicated music curriculum time on the school timetable each week for all year groups. A minimum of 1 hour music teaching takes place, this is usually one set lesson but may take the form of short sessions spread across the week. Teachers use a variety of teaching and learning styles in music lessons including modelling, demonstrating and exploration. Children have the opportunity to use/listen to a wide range of instruments in lessons, through both recorded and live performances.

Music is taught from in Nursery to year 6 using the 'Charanga Music School' scheme of work in which supports all of the requirements of the National Curriculum and gives children access to a wide range of musical concepts and experiences, We are currently developing our own Music Scheme of work that is bespoke to meet the needs of our children.

The scheme ensure that it is ideal for specialist and non-specialist teachers and provides lesson plans, assessment, clear progression, and engaging and exciting whiteboard resources to support every lesson. The Scheme supports all the requirements of the new National Curriculum and is in line with published OFSTED guidance. The learning within this scheme is based on:

Listening and Appraising; Musical Activities - creating and exploring; and Singing and Performing.

We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children. We believe singing lies at the heart of a good music education, therefore our teaching and extra-curricular activities focus on developing pupils' ability to sing in tune, developing their expression and ability to listen to others. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. During our weekly singing assemblies, pupils learn a wide repertoire of music and begin to appreciate creating a sound as a choir. We also provide KS2 children with the opportunity to join a choir (an afterschool club), which further enables pupils to refine their singing technique and to join in with others in the shared experience of music making.

### **Early Years**

Music in the foundation stage permeates all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Children are encouraged to explore, create, listen and respond to a variety of sounds indoors and outdoors. They will be introduced to a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments, explore simple rhythm and how sounds can be changed. They participate in action songs, nursery rhymes and singing games to develop their musical skills.

Music contributes to a child's personal and social development, counting songs foster a child's mathematical ability, and songs from different cultures increase a child's knowledge and understanding of the world.

### **Key Stage 1 and 2**

Teachers are encouraged to develop the plans provided in the scheme to meet the needs of the pupils in their class and to also take inspiration from the children's interests and topics – making cross-curricular links where possible.

In line with the curriculum for music and guidance from Ofsted, this supports an integrated, practical, exploratory and child-led approach to musical learning. Each Unit of Work comprises the of strands of musical learning which correspond with the national curriculum for music:

Listening and Appraising  
Musical Activities  
Warm-up Games  
Optional Flexible Games  
Singing  
Playing instruments  
Improvisation  
Composition  
Performing

During KS1, children build upon their experiences in EYFS and develop their skills of performing, composing, listening and appraising. They develop an understanding of the interrelated dimensions of music: pitch, pulse, timbre, tempo, texture and dynamics, and teachers use vocabulary progression to ensure pupils are using the correct terminology to describe the music being learned, played or listened to. Children learn to sing more songs from memory, sometimes adding their own accompaniments. They use tuned and untuned instruments to explore how sounds and silence can create different effects. They learn how to control sounds made with their voices and instruments. Pupils also enjoy further opportunities to perform to their peers, families and small audiences.

During KS2 children build upon these skills further to play tuned instruments with more consistency. They are encouraged to take part in performances for a wider variety of audiences within the community

We recognise that musical teaching and learning is not neat or linear. The strands of musical learning, presented within the lesson plans and the on-screen resources, are part of the learning spiral. Over time, children can both develop new musical skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical skills and concepts. Mastery means both a deeper understanding of musical skills and concepts and learning something new.

## 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.

Throughout the year children at Rockcliffe CE Primary School have the opportunity to take part in additional after school clubs to encourage and foster their love of learning and music.

Our Music co-ordinator runs a school choir which happens throughout the Year after-school and also has some sessions at lunchtime to ensure all children who want to take part can.

Children also showcase their learning at school and parent assemblies and also within the local community such as within the Cathedral as part of an inter school choir, at Austin Friars School as part of a Community choir and within places such as Care homes.

As part of the choir children learn to sing in tune with good posture and clear dictation. Through regularly practising a varied repertoire, pupils learn to perform songs with confidence using expression and responding to the leader's directions and visual symbols to change dynamics, pitch or tempo to create an effect.

Children are offered the opportunity to learn to play an instrument (The Harp or Piano)  
A peripatetic music teacher comes to school throughout the week and offers individual and group sessions.

## 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.

We have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be part of a combined schools choir and this enabled the children to listen to secondary age children perform.

We have had visiting musician- Ed from the community.

We have visiting theatre groups to allow the children the opportunity to experience and even sometimes take part in these.

We take part in Carlisle Music and Dance Festival for KS1 and also as a choir group.

Engaging with the local community through Christmas carolling at supermarket/care homes.

Christmas concerts, parents assemblies for all years

## In the future

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

- Participation in Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival 2026
- Young Voices 2026
- Develop the access to instrument tuition involving engagement with specialist music teacher to provide 1-1 and small group tuition on at least 1 instrument in addition to the tuition in place for Piano and Harp.
- Opportunities throughout the year to showcase whole class instrumental learning and singing.

Curriculum enrichment opportunities – Ukuleles..., cross curricular work eg Computing

## Further information (optional)

Cumbria Music Hub [Cumbria Music Hub – Inspiring children and young people to develop a love of music through participation in a range of musical experiences within and outside school.](#)

Music education: information for parents and young people [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival [Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival \(carlislemusicanddrama.com\)](#)

See our school Facebook page