

Aycliffe Drive Primary School – Music Development Plan 2026-2027



Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2028
Name of the school music lead	Lucy Barton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Katie Atkinson
Name of scheme followed	Charanga

This is an overview of how our school provides music education for all pupils across three key areas: curriculum music, co-curricular opportunities and musical experiences. It also outlines the developments and changes we are planning for future years.

The information is designed to help pupils and parents or carers understand the music opportunities available at our school, as well as the organisations and partners we work with to support and enhance our pupils' musical education.

Music Curriculum

Our Vision for Music

At Aycliffe Drive Primary School, our vision is for music to be fully embedded in every aspect of school life, inspiring every child to develop a lifelong love and appreciation of music.

Through playing, singing, creating and performing, children develop confidence, communication, critical thinking and creativity, while also supporting their emotional wellbeing. We want children to experience music as something that is enjoyable, expressive and relaxing, reflecting and reinforcing our positive whole-school ethos.

Music also provides valuable opportunities for children to develop important personal qualities such as **determination, resilience, hard work and bravery**. Performing in front of others helps children to challenge themselves, celebrate their achievements and grow in confidence.

Our music lessons are lively, engaging and interactive, designed to nurture a passion for music in children of all abilities. We recognise the important links between music and other areas of learning, particularly English. Children use spoken word as part of musical performances and develop their creativity through writing and performing poetry.

Our aim is that every child has the opportunity to participate, perform and enjoy music, developing skills and experiences that they can carry with them throughout their lives.

Children at Aycliffe Drive Primary School experience a broad range of musical activities, including singing, playing tuned and untuned percussion, composing and listening to both live and recorded music. All children are given opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge needed to compose and create their own music using a range of instruments.

Musical notation is introduced and developed through practical music-making, with children learning to read and apply notation while playing instruments such as djembe drums, recorders and ukuleles. Across the school, children develop their understanding and use of appropriate musical vocabulary, including key terms such as rhythm, melody, pitch and dynamics.

Singing is a central and highly valued part of our music curriculum. Children are taught how to warm up and care for their voices, sing confidently as individuals and as part of a group, and develop their ability to sing in rounds and harmony. Throughout their time at Aycliffe Drive Primary School, children build a varied repertoire of songs and develop the confidence and enjoyment needed to perform to others.

Intent

Music is a unique and powerful form of communication that can influence how people feel, think and respond. It brings together creativity and emotion, providing opportunities for personal expression, reflection and development.

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all children have opportunities to:

perform, listen to, review and evaluate music;

learn to sing and use their voices, create and compose music;

understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated.

At Aycliffe Drive Primary School, we are committed to providing all children with a rich, varied and inclusive music curriculum that develops a secure understanding of music and its many forms. Through a wide range of practical experiences, children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to become successful and enthusiastic musicians.

We want every child to have the opportunity to participate, create, perform and enjoy music, regardless of their starting point or ability. By the time children leave Aycliffe Drive Primary School, we aim for them to have developed an appreciation of the joy and value of music, a love of singing, and a broad range of musical experiences, knowledge and skills that they can continue to develop throughout their lives.

Implementation

Music is taught by a specialist music teacher, ensuring that children develop their musical knowledge and skills progressively throughout each year group. Children are given regular opportunities to listen to, explore, perform and respond to a wide range of music, developing an understanding of different musical traditions, cultures and genres.

Our music curriculum encourages children to explore and understand the different elements of music and to develop their ability to describe, discuss and evaluate what they hear. Children are taught to use musical vocabulary accurately and appropriately, both verbally and in their written work. Cross-curricular links are also used to enhance children's learning and understanding across the curriculum.

The Charanga music curriculum is used across the school to provide engaging, practical and progressive lessons and songs that meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. Through Charanga and our wider musical provision, children develop their skills in singing, playing instruments, listening, composing, improvising and performing.

During the Early Years Foundation Stage, children experience a curriculum rich in opportunities to explore and respond to music, following the guidance of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. They are encouraged to listen carefully to music and explore how different sounds can create feelings, ideas and responses. Children respond to musical stimuli through dance and movement and begin to create their own musical sounds through singing, vocal exploration and playing instruments, developing increasing control and confidence. This emphasis on play, exploration and practical learning provides a strong foundation for their musical development in Key Stage 1.

In Years 1 and 2, children develop their ability to listen carefully and respond physically and creatively to a wide range of music. They learn and perform songs from memory, play a variety of instruments, create short compositions and explore how sounds and silence can be used to create different moods and effects. Children develop increasing confidence, imagination and control when singing, playing and creating music.

Throughout Key Stage 2, children build on their existing musical knowledge and skills, singing and playing instruments with increasing confidence, expression, accuracy and control. They develop an increasing awareness of their own contribution to group and class performances. Children have opportunities to improvise and compose their own music in response to a range of stimuli, developing greater independence, creativity and personal expression.

Children are encouraged to listen and respond thoughtfully to music from different periods, cultures, traditions and contexts. They develop their understanding of musical genres, instruments, composers and musicians from around the world, helping them to appreciate the diversity and richness of music.

Impact

Children's musical development is assessed by the teacher against clear learning objectives and success criteria. Throughout each unit, children are encouraged to reflect on their own learning and to give constructive feedback to their peers.

Assessment is used to identify progress and inform future teaching and learning.

Our music curriculum supports children in developing a wide range of skills and personal qualities, including confidence, creativity, resilience, collaboration, self-expression and self-reflection. Through singing, playing, composing, performing and listening, children develop an appreciation of music and an understanding of its importance in different cultures, communities and historical contexts.

We want children to experience music in a variety of ways and to develop the confidence to participate as listeners, creators and performers. Our curriculum provides children with the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to continue developing as musicians and to enjoy music throughout their lives.

Opportunities for singing and musical participation are embedded throughout school life, including regular singing in assemblies and within classrooms. Children also have opportunities to perform to others through school productions, concerts, celebrations and other musical events. These experiences enable children to share their achievements with others, develop confidence when performing and experience the pride and sense of accomplishment that comes from making music together.

Ultimately, we aim for every child to leave Aycliffe Drive Primary School with positive musical experiences, a strong foundation of musical knowledge and skills, and a lasting enjoyment and appreciation of music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Children have the opportunity to participate in iRock School of Music. Children who attend iRock have a weekly session where they focus on learning a specific instrument, e.g. guitar, keyboard, singing, drums, etc in part of a band. The children do a termly performance to classes and parents. iRock is charged per month and parents can find out more via their website.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children have a range of opportunities to share and celebrate their musical learning throughout their time at Aycliffe Drive Primary School. These opportunities vary across

year groups and may include occasional class performances, where children can develop their confidence and experience of performing to an audience.

As part of our wider school celebrations, children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 take part in Christmas performances, providing valuable opportunities to sing, perform and work together as part of a larger production. In Year 6, children have the opportunity to take part in a leavers' production during the summer term, allowing them to celebrate their time at primary school and showcase their developing performance skills.

While not every class performs each year, we aim to provide children with meaningful opportunities to perform when appropriate. These experiences support the development of confidence, resilience, teamwork and self-expression, while helping children to experience the enjoyment and sense of achievement that comes from performing for others.

In the future

Looking ahead, we will explore ways to provide our children with more opportunities to share their musical skills and achievements with a wider audience. We will also consider how we can create additional opportunities for children to perform within school, building their confidence and enjoyment of performing.

We will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen the role of music across the wider curriculum, making meaningful links with other subjects and using music to enhance children's learning and experiences across school.