

West Rainton Primary School

Music Development Plan

2026-2027

Music development plan summary: West Rainton Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	3/9/26
Date this summary will be reviewed	3/9/27
Name of the school music lead	Julia Struthers
Name of school music governor	Stella Griggs
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service (lead partner of Durham and Darlington Music Education 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 and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At West Rainton Primary School we have created our own music curriculum and curriculum intent, drawing from the Department for Education's Model Music Curriculum and Durham Music Service's Primary Music Curriculum and Progress Map.

Music lessons are timetabled for an hour a week for each class. This involves both whole class and small group activities. Pupils are taught to make music together, to understand musical notation, and to compose pieces. They are also taught to sing and play in time, controlling the sound and pace. They are taught different ways to represent sounds graphically and symbolically. As Pupils get older, they to listen to more extended pieces of music. They develop their descriptive skills in music lessons by exploring how music can represent different feelings and emotions as well as describing pieces using appropriate musical terminology. Pupils are also taught how to

use technology as a tool for creating, manipulating and storing sounds e.g. using the Garageband App on iPads.

Durham Music Service
We use Durham Music Service to support curriculum music in both KS1 and KS2.

Year 2 pupils have one term each year learning to play boomwhackers. (school resources) Boomwhackers introduce children to tuned percussion, helping them develop their musical skills and preparing them for learning the steel drums in KS2. All lessons are taught by a member of the DMS team.

From Y3-Y6 pupils are taught the steel drums by a member of the DMS team in the music studio. Each year group has an 1 hour lesson for a term each year. Learning the same instrument for four years allows pupils to develop their playing skills, make more progress and become more confident musicians.

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.

West Rainton Steel Band is for pupils from Y3-Y6. Rehearsals takes place every Friday night after school in our music studio and is led by a member of the Durham Music Service. Throughout the year, the steel band have the opportunity to perform during school events (picnic and assemblies) and also events in the community (Miners' Gala, Banks Homes event) We are thrilled that a number of our former pupils continue to rehearse and perform as part of our steel band. (free for all pupils)

Our school choir rehearses in the school hall. Throughout the year, they have the opportunity to perform at events in the community such a performance at Durham Cathedral as part of the Schools Outreach Project and St Mary's Church Carol Service in West Rainton. (free for all pupils)

As we move from recorder to steel drums as our main teaching instrument, we are pleased to introduce a Recorder Club this year for all those who wish to continue developing their recorder skills and progress further with their playing. (free for all pupils)

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.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 take part in a weekly singing practice (20 minutes) in which they learn and practise a wide range of songs.

Pupils attend Musician of the Month assemblies once a month where the school (Y1-Y6) focuses on a single artist, composer, or musical tradition, exploring their background and listening to their work. The assemblies feature a mix of classical composers, global traditions, and contemporary popular artists.

Performance Opportunities

Reception and Year 6 Harvest Festival

EYFS Nativity performance.

KS1 Christmas performance.

KS 2 Christmas performance. (eg The Lion King Jr, Mary Poppins Jr, Oliver Jr)

Whole school Carols Round the Tree performance.

School Choir - Carol Service at St Mary's Church (singing and handbells)

School Choir – Carols at Springfield Lodge Nursing Home

School Choir – Durham Cathedral performance (Schools Outreach Project)

End of year whole school music performance at the school picnic where each class from Reception to Year 6 sing a song they have learnt that year and perform a musical piece (steel drums or percussion) for the rest of the school and parents.

West Rainton Steel Band perform at school events and community events throughout the year these include Durham Miner's Gala, St Mary's Church Big Lunch picnic

Musical experiences

Reception – Year 6 attend a pantomime at Durham Gala Theatre every December. (subsidised by the school)

Early Years Pantomime which is held in the school hall (paid for by the school)

In the summer term, a different music ensemble provides a live performance for all our children in the school hall. (paid for by the school) Last year, we enjoyed a performance by Back Chat Brass.

In the future

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

- To continue to look at providing musical experiences for every year group outside of their music lessons
- To continue to provide our staff with CPD to continue to develop their confidence and subject knowledge.
- To start a Recorder Club for pupils in KS2.