

# Music development plan summary: Newlathes Junior School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	Jul 26
Date this summary will be reviewed	Jul 27
Name of the school music lead	Ian Simkins
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Richard Clark
Name of local music hub	Cumbria Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	St. Luke's Brass (Carlisle St. Stephens' Brass Band) Cumbria Youth Brass Singup

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 Newlathes Junior School, children have at least 40 minutes curriculum music time, once a week, taught by a specialist music teacher. The Curriculum is designed in-house taking inspiration from the Model Music Curriculum (2021), and it meets all of the demands of the National Curriculum, which ensures that all children:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music
- be taught to sing, create and compose music
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated

**Intent**

Children gain a firm understanding of what music is through listening, singing, playing, evaluating, analysing, and composing across a wide variety of historical periods, styles, traditions, and musical genres. We are committed to developing a curiosity for the subject, as well as an understanding and acceptance of the validity and importance of all types of music, and an unbiased respect for the role that music may wish to be expressed in any person's life. We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community and are able to use their musical skills, knowledge, and experiences to involve themselves in music, in a variety of different contexts.

**Implementation**

The music curriculum ensures children sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate. This is embedded in the classroom through the structured music programme and enhances through the weekly singing assemblies, various concerts and performances, musical clubs and teaching from specialist music teachers. The elements of music are taught in the classroom lessons so that children are able to use some of the language of music to dissect it, and understand how it is made, played, appreciated and analysed. In the classroom children learn key aspects of music through cross-curricular links. They also learn how to compose, focusing on different dimensions of music, which in turn feeds their understanding when listening, playing, or analysing music.

All children in Year 4 are taught how to play a brass instrument through a WCET approach. They have the opportunity to play either a cornet, trumpet or trombone, and lessons are staged to develop their note range, note reading, tone and general musicianship, taking account of the needs of the groups and individuals. This lasts for the whole of year 4, and they then get the opportunity to join our year 5 brass group which is a 1-hour curriculum lesson, followed by a year 6 after-school group, all the while insisting on developing playing skills, ensemble skills and general musicianship.

**Assessment**

A mixture of formative assessment is used regularly to feedback to children on their performance, along with more formal assessments where work is recorded and as such it is gleaned where children are not meeting the expectations of the National Curriculum.

**Resourcing**

We have a range of instruments to aid teaching, including: 2 class sets of Pcornets, PTrumpets and PTrombones. A set of brass instruments including cornets, tenor horns, baritones, trombones and euphoniums. A class set of djembe drums, keyboards, along with tuned and untuned percussion instruments.

## Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

All children in years 4-6 have the opportunity to learn instruments in a small group, taught by a visiting teacher. We currently offer tuition on keyboards, bass and guitar. The cost of these lessons to parents is £45 per term.

All children have the opportunity to join the school choir, which is held at lunchtimes throughout the year, singing a range of songs. Choir is free of charge.

In year 5, children are offered the opportunity to join the brass group which is held during a lesson time for one hour every week with instruments provided by the school, developing the skills learnt during the WCET sessions in year 4. All children are expected to practise at home to be a member of this group.

In year 6, a brass group meets after school each week, and again this is free of charge.

All brass instruments are school instruments and are loaned to the children for home practice, which includes weekends and school holidays.

Our brass players are invited to attend St. Luke's Brass group which is run in the local church by an experienced brass teacher and player, with links to Carlisle St. Stephen's Brass Band. They are also encouraged to join the Cumbria Youth Brass Band which meets at different places in the county once a month.

All our musicians are encouraged to join Carlisle Music Centre which is run by Cumbria Music Hub and takes place at Trinity School. They provide larger ensembles for strings, woodwind and brass, percussion and guitar. Some of our pupils currently attend these ensembles and continue to be part of the senior groups as they move on to secondary school.

## 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.

Our children sing twice a week in assemblies, rehearsing in the singing assembly and performing in the celebration assembly. At appropriate moments in the year, students that have been involved in small group lessons, or school ensembles are invited to perform in these assemblies too.

At Christmas we have a Carol Concert held in St. Luke's Church (nearby). This involves whole-school singing, brass playing from year 4 (WCET), and the year 5 and 6 brass groups. Choir will also perform. We invite as many parents along to watch as will comfortably fit!

We hold a Summer Concert at the end of the year, which also involves whole-school singing, brass playing and also the work of the children that have been learning keyboard and guitars in small-group lessons.

In Jul 26 we took part in Singup's Big Sing at the Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Gateshead. We took our school choir and performed in a massed choir.

Small groups of our children have sung to the residents at the local care home.

Throughout the year, each year group stages a musical or play with songs. Year 4 hold a harvest presentation, Year 5 a Christmas show, Year 3 an Easter show, and Year 6 a Summer Musical (last year The Sound of Music).

We have had visiting performers come to school such as Graffiti Classics String Quartet, organised by Cumbria Music Hub.

## In the future

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

Continue to develop the quality and experience of singing across the school.

Take the choir to the Big Sing in Gateshead in July.

Recruit into the year 6 brass group (after-school) and continue to grow the year 5 group. Allow able year 5s to join the year 6 group.

Continue to work with Cumbria Youth Brass Band, and Drum and Brass, and look for other brass-playing groups to work with our children (St. Luke's).

Look for further extra-curricular opportunities for the children to attend.

Continue to develop the music curriculum ensuring breadth and depth.

Improve department resourcing.

Seek out other performing opportunities outside of school.

Invite at least one group into school as a live performance event.