

Music development plan summary: [Newsome Academy]

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	June 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	A. McCarthy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	S. Mitchell
Name of local music hub	Musica – Kirklees (part of the West Yorkshire Music Hub).
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

Newsome Academy delivers a broad, engaging Music curriculum that reflects the academy's values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork and Aspiration. Music is taught as part of a balanced Key Stage 3 offer, ensuring that pupils experience opportunities to engage in performance, composition and listening across a variety of genres, styles and traditions. Key Stage 3 students have two, hour-long lessons each fortnight. Lessons are designed in an inclusive manner to enable every pupil, including those with special educational needs, to access musical learning through supportive use of technology and adaptive approaches.

At Key Stage 4, pupils may opt to study a BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice, which provides a vocational pathway centred on real-world musical skills, including rehearsal, performance, composition and application of music technology. The course enables pupils to develop depth, independence and confidence in their musical abilities and hone their skills through a variety of disciplines. Students opting for the BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice will do so through six, hour-long lessons per fortnight.

Our curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) in its selection of repertoire, its focus on the development of aural skills through the musical elements, and in the broad range of styles, genres and traditions that are covered. Pupils learn to play and develop their instrumental skills on keyboard, ukulele, guitar and bass guitar and compose/arrange using music technology throughout Key Stage Three.

In Key Stage Three pupils work individually, in pairs and, on occasion, form small ensembles to develop as performers and composers. Through a variety of musical styles and traditions such as the Western Classical Tradition, Film Music, Rap and Hip Hop and Reggae students deepen their understanding of musical elements/interrelated dimensions.

Pupils begin to use DAW software (Mixcraft) in Year 7, initially learning the basic principles behind using the software. In Year 8, students begin to develop their understanding further through the study and creation of House Music before further honing their skills and understanding of DAW software through the creation of Film Music.

Newsome Academy works alongside Musica Kirklees (the local music hub) on classroom provision and co-curricular music. Newsome Academy also works alongside other secondary schools in the MAT, in sharing curriculum planning, and assessment.

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.

A range of clubs and music-making opportunities beyond the timetabled lessons are available for students including:

- Choir
- Several pop/rock ensembles.
- Drum, Electric Guitar and Bass guitar lessons are available through Musica Kirklees peripatetic staff.
- Some of the peripatetic lessons are available free of charge to the student. These are predominantly made available to those studying music at Key Stage Four, those who have a particular aptitude for the instrument.
- Subsidised or fully funded instrumental lessons are also available through Musica Kirklees for certain cohorts (e.g. for looked after children, holders of a Kirklees priority passport or through pupil premium funding).
- A Music Club, which runs each week enables students to engage in an area of interest that they have such as performing on a particular instrument, forming a band/ensemble or working with music technology.

Part C: Musical Performances and Events

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.

- A Christmas Concert is held each year and draws together local primary schools within the performance also.
- A yearly (free to attend) 'Big Sing' event is also arranged through the local music hub. Several local primary schools as well as students from both Key Stage Three and Four take part in this event, which is a free to attend concert that includes performances from choirs, soloists and small ensembles.
- A free to attend Summer Showcase event is also held to enable students to perform to an audience and includes choirs, soloists and small ensembles.

- Newsome Academy has an established link with the Lawrence Batley Theatre, which supports students in attending subsidised / fully funded live performances/musical experiences. For example - Key Stage Four attended a live performance of SK Shlomo's 'Breathe' alongside taking part in music-making workshops with the artist.

In the future

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

Newsome Academy will be further developing music provision by investing in the department to create:

- Further rehearsal spaces for students to practice their instrument(s) beyond the main classroom space.
- Installation of a music studio that will enable students to further develop their music technology skills and interests.
- Development of more regular opportunities to perform music in a live setting.
- Development of more regular opportunities to watch live music and take part in trips/visits.

Further information (optional)

- [Musica Kirklees](#) – Local Music Hub
- Department for Education [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.