

Swarland Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary



Local authority: Northumberland

Local music hub: Northumberland Music

Music lead: Alison Stanley

Headteacher: Louise Fletcher

Date written: September 2025

Review date: September 2026

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across the three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical enrichments, alongside what changes we are planning in future years.

Curriculum music:

This is about what we teach in lesson time and how much time we spend teaching music.

Music is taught in class every week from Reception to Year 6 and is, in part, informed by the model music curriculum. Music lessons are 30 minutes in length and are taught by the class teacher in Reception and Key Stage 1. In Key Stage 2, lessons are taught by a specialist instrumental teacher from Music Partnership North and are also 30 minutes in length.

Key Stage 2 children learn an instrument as part of a whole class ensemble. The instrument of focus changes on a yearly basis and includes stringed, brass and wind instruments over a four-year cycle.

All teaching is also supplemented by weekly singing assemblies and in class active listening sessions or singing sessions, which total over 25 minutes.

To read more about the music provision at Swarland Primary School, please visit our school website.

Co-curriculum music:

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music outside of lesson time.

Extra-curricular provision is offered free, in school, to every pupil by the Music Lead every other half term. These clubs run after school for an hour a week or for half an hour during lunch breaks for 12 weeks. Clubs this year included Penny Whistle, Christmas Choir and Singing Hinnies.

Northumberland County Council via Northumberland Music support our offer of additional instrumental and vocal tuition to those pupils seeking specialist lessons beyond the school curriculum. The cost is determined by the size of the tuition group and instruments include keyboard, piano, accordion, drums, ukulele, brass - (Baritone Horn, Cornet, Euphonium, French Horn, Trumpet, Tenor Horn, Trombone, Tuba), woodwind – (Flute, Clarinet, Recorder, Saxophone, Northumbrian Pipes, Oboe), and strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp).

Musical enrichment:

This is about other musical events and opportunities that we organise.

Every pupil takes part in an annual performance, and Key stage 2 pupils also perform in a leavers show.

Pupils in Key stage 2 play as an ensemble to the rest of the school at least twice a year.

Musicians visit the school to perform during our Cultural Topic once a year and offer workshops where appropriate.

Each year the whole school experience a theatre group performance.

Northumberland Music offer groups and ensembles across the region and have a full schedule of events and concerts.

Our engagement with the Youth National Choir and The Royal Opera House ensures our pupils have access to regional and national projects and activities.

In the future:

This is about what the school is planning in subsequent year.

Over the coming year, our Musical Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Capture of our musical activity to establish a bank of video recordings
- Regular monitoring of pupil voice across the whole school
- Completion of a full staff skills audit
- Promotion of our co-curricular offer.
- Collaboration with the Aln Alliance to expand our audience, increase performance opportunities and share expertise to drive improvements.
- Commit to achieving ArtsMark Gold