

Music development plan summary: Darton Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	8 th August 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Charles Benkowitz
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Rebecca Nettleship (Headteacher)
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School

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.

<p>Developing learners who: Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. Play tuned and untuned instruments musically. Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds. Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians. Be able to understand and discuss the interrelated dimensions of music using technical vocabulary appropriate to their age and stage of learning. Experience composition and performance of music, through taught lessons and other events such as assemblies and talent shows.</p> <p>How this subject is taught: Our curriculum begins in Foundation 1 (nursery) where pupils are exposed to a range of nursery rhymes and repetitive songs across the curriculum. We then follow the Charanga curriculum across school. Charanga is a progressive program that enables pupils to reflect and build on their musical knowledge and skills. This scheme is taught from Reception to Year 6. In addition to Charanga, Years 4 pupils also have taught ukelele lessons provided by a specialist music teacher from Barnsley Music Services. These lessons last an hour, weekly.</p>

Our curriculum is designed with a strong emphasis on listening and appraising. Pupils have opportunities to explore a range of musical genres, play a range of instruments and develop the musical skills of improvisation, composition, performance and appraisal. Our music curriculum is built around the interrelated dimensions of music: pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture, structure and notation. Pupils experience these elements of music across each unit of study with the curriculum designed in a spiral approach, allowing for the consolidation and revisiting of previous learning which is then built upon in each unit, each half term and each year. This approach ensures that our pupils develop a broad and deep understanding of music, fostering a lifelong appreciation and love for the subject.

Our music curriculum sets out pathways for progression that enables pupils to develop their musical knowledge. As a result, the progress of children in music requires them to develop musically across three pillars that interrelate in musicianship: 'Technical' development for pupils to translate their intentions successfully into sound. 'Constructive' development for pupils to understand how musical components come together both analytically and in the creative process. 'Expressive' development to allow children to focus on the more indefinable aspects of music: quality, meaning and creativity.

Our musical curriculum content supports pupils in developing these three essential pillars, which in turn support the activities of performing, composing and listening. As a result, the Music curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, imaginative and ambitious and meets the needs of individual learners but can also easily be adapted for pupils with additional needs.

Our curriculum also has a strong focus on the acquisition, understanding and use of a range of technical musical vocabulary. Pupils are introduced to new musical vocabulary through a whole school approach to language development and opportunities are built in within all lessons to consolidate past vocabulary and learn new words.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those children with SEND. Curriculum designers and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve and the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for SEND pupils. Every pupil is different and so what works for each pupil varies. Pupils' individual needs are considered and adaptations are planned to ensure the success of pupils in all areas of the music curriculum.

The way that our curriculum is designed ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced in a coherent way to enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. Where pupils are identified with having complex needs, it may be appropriate to provide a personalised curriculum which will be based on individual needs and will retain ambition for the pupil.

Adaptations may include supporting pupils to pay attention to key aspects as well as reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory. Time is also planned to ensure pupils with SEND are pre taught instructions and vocabulary to support their understanding.

Through our partnership with the Barnsley Music Education Hub, pupils can access further instrumental and vocal lessons through small group and one to one tuition, enhancing their skills and broadening their musical experiences.

In summary, our Music Curriculum is designed to provide a robust and comprehensive music education that nurtures the musical talents and interests of all our pupils. By focusing on listening and appraising, and ensuring a structured and progressive approach to teaching music, we aim to develop well-rounded musicians who appreciate and engage with music on a deep and meaningful level.

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.

At Darton Primary School, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the core curriculum. Our co-curricular music programme is designed to offer pupils numerous opportunities to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for the subject and enabling them to make significant progress in their musical journey.

Whole School Music Assemblies

One of the cornerstones of our music provision is the whole-school singing assemblies. These assemblies are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience where children learn about the dimensions of music: pitch, pulse, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, timbre, texture and structure. The collective experience of singing and instrument playing together also builds a sense of community and shared joy in music-making. Whole-school assemblies also provide opportunities for our children who have individual music tuition to perform with their instruments.

School Choir and opportunities for choral singing and performance

At Darton Primary School, children have the opportunity to be involved in a school choir (KS2). This lunchtime club allows all children in KS2 to take part. It is an opportunity for children to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony, and perform in front of live audiences, giving the pupils the chance to experience the thrill of performing in both the local community and larger venues as well as being part of a larger musical community. The choir enhances pupils' musical skills, builds confidence and develops a sense of teamwork, collaboration and belonging.

Instrumental Learning Opportunities

We believe in the importance of instrumental learning as part of a well-rounded music education. At Darton Primary School, we provide whole-class ensemble teaching and small-group lessons to ensure that all pupils have the chance to learn an instrument. Through our music curriculum, pupils are introduced to a range of percussion instruments, recorders, xylophones and glockenspiels. By Year 4 pupils progress to learning the ukelele, which further develops their technical skills and introduces them to ensemble playing and provides the opportunity to perform at Barnsley Music Festival for a live audience.

Rocksteady Music Sessions

Our partnership with Rocksteady Music brings an exciting dimension to our music provision. Rocksteady delivers sessions where children can learn to sing and play contemporary instruments such as drums, keyboards, and electric guitars. These sessions are highly engaging and allow pupils to explore different genres of music, fostering creativity and enthusiasm. The hands-on experience with modern instruments also helps to keep pupils motivated and interested in their musical development.

Individual and Small Group Tuition

To cater to pupils who wish to pursue music more intensively, we offer individual and small group tuition for a variety of instruments. These sessions are tailored to the needs of each pupil, allowing for focused and personalised instruction. Pupils can choose from a range of instruments including, singing, guitar, woodwind and brass instruments. This one-to-one or small group setting ensures that pupils receive the attention and guidance they need to progress at their own pace and achieve their musical goals.

Musical Theatre Performances

Throughout their time at school, pupils have opportunities to take part in musical performance. These begin with Nativities in Nursery and Reception and the Reception graduation events. These also include whole school celebrations and festivals such as Harvest Festival and key-stage Christmas performances both in school and at

the local church. At the end of Key Stage 2, children also have the opportunity to take part in a musical theatre production for parents.

Our co-curricular music activities are designed to complement and enhance the core curriculum, providing pupils with a comprehensive musical education. Through regular practice, performance opportunities, and exposure to a variety of musical styles and instruments, pupils can develop their skills and deepen their understanding of music. The structured progression from whole school singing assemblies to instrumental learning and performance opportunities ensures that pupils build a solid foundation in music and are well-prepared for further musical study.

In conclusion, Darton Primary School's co-curricular music programme offers a wealth of opportunities for pupils to engage with music in meaningful and enjoyable ways. By providing a variety of singing and instrumental activities, we aim to nurture each child's musical potential and instil a lifelong appreciation for the art of music.

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.

At Darton Primary School, we are committed to nurturing confident, lifelong learners who are proud of their heritage and ready to make a positive contribution to society. As part of our holistic approach to education, we provide a rich diet of experiences that nurture the whole child and provide a core offer of enrichment opportunities to set children on their journey to the next stage of their education in preparation for adulthood. A crucial component of this is our comprehensive music programme, which includes a variety of musical events and opportunities designed to expose students to the joys of performance and foster a deep appreciation for music.

Attending live performances is an integral part of our music curriculum. It exposes children to new crowds and environments, helping them develop a sense of belonging and build emotional intelligence. These experiences, which form part of Darton's core enrichment offer to pupils, are well-planned, coherent, and progressive, ensuring that all students benefit from them. For instance, we have held whole school performances and workshops from both Barnsley Music Hub and performance groups/companies within school, including providing opportunities for pupils to experience and learn about music from a range of cultures.

We offer numerous performance opportunities for our students. Our Key Stage 2 children perform in a Christmas concert and our Year 6 children take part in a musical theatre production at the end of each academic year, providing experience of singing and performing in front of a live audience. Pupils in Year 4 also have the opportunity each year to perform at Barnsley Music Festival held at The Metrodome with a live audience, the culmination of their opportunity to learn the ukelele with Barnsley Music Hub. These performances provide students with a platform to express themselves and gain confidence in their abilities. Within school we also provide musical opportunities for pupils who learn an instrument through tuition to perform in front of the school and parents. Pupils who take part in Rock Steady in school also have the opportunity to perform their termly concert for pupils and parents to showcase the pieces they have been working on.

Seasonal performances are another highlight of our music programme. In the autumn term, we have an EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 musical performances at Christmas, all of which bring the school community together in celebration. Our classes in Key Stage 2 also have opportunities to perform as choirs at various local events, singing for example at our local residential care home and within the local community retailers at Christmas. These events not only celebrate students' musical achievements but also strengthen community bonds and develop pupil confidence.

In conclusion, our comprehensive music programme at Darton Primary School is designed to provide students with a wide range of musical experiences. From attending live performances to participating in their own live musical performances, our students are immersed in a vibrant musical culture that nurtures their talents and fosters a lifelong love of music.

In the future

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

At Darton Primary School, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music education provision to ensure that it meets the highest standards and provides enriching experiences for all our children. In the coming years, we plan to implement several key improvements in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences to further develop our students' musical abilities and appreciation.

Further Refine and Develop the Music Curriculum:

As a school we have introduced the use of Charanga music curriculum for the delivery of music across school from Foundation Stage to Year 6. We plan to refine this further to meet the needs of our own pupils, including through devising a bespoke and progressive compilation list that our children will explore and appraise throughout their time at school. We will also develop the Charanga music curriculum by personalising it to meet the needs of our pupils, selecting those units of study which we believe provide breadth and depth and allow pupils to consolidate and build upon key knowledge and skills each term and each year.

Professional Development for Teachers:

We will conduct regular CPD sessions to enable us to embed the use of Charanga music curriculum across school, including developing teachers' subject knowledge, curriculum knowledge, use of musical terminology and confidence in delivering music lessons. Personalised coaching and professional development will also be used to target teachers' individual needs for development based upon rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the subject. Enhancing teachers' skills and confidence in delivering music education will lead to more effective teaching and better student outcomes. CPD that focuses on developing teachers as musicians will be particularly beneficial, as highlighted by OFSTED's research review.

Subject Leadership Development:

We will also continue to develop subject leadership of music to ensure that there is strong and effective leadership of the subject which positively impacts standards and outcomes in the subject. Coaching from senior leadership will focus on the development of key leadership skills including monitoring and evaluation of standards and providing effective CPD to staff while professional development through the use of Charanga training will also develop an in depth understanding of the curriculum and progression within music across school.

Develop opportunities for children to take part in live music events

We will develop as a school a range of opportunities for children to visit theatre and live music events in order for them to have this rich experience.

Continue to introduce a wide range of new instruments:

Starting from the next academic year, we will gradually introduce new instruments from a wider range of instrument families. This will be accompanied by appropriate training for teachers. Learning new instruments will broaden students' musical experiences and skills, fostering a greater appreciation for music.

Further information:

To supplement our offer at school, the Department for Education publishes a [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.