# Music development plan summary: Mapplewell Primary School

## Overview

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| Detail | Information |
| Academic year that this summary covers | 2025/2026 |
| Date this summary was published | 21/09/2025 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | July 2025 |
| Name of the school music lead | Caroline Wilkinson |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | As above |
| Name of local music hub | Barnsley Music Education Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Barnsley Youth Choir school partnership |

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.

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| At Mapplewell Primary, we have reviewed the guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to refine and enhance our approach to music education. Our curriculum is designed with an emphasis on listening and appraising, and we ensure pupils have the opportunity to listen to and explore different styles of music, music from different periods of time and the opportunity to listen to live music. This approach ensures that our pupils develop a broad and deep understanding of music, fostering a lifelong appreciation and love for the subject. Pupils are given a range of opportunities throughout the curriculum to learn new instruments alongside this we offer Year 3 and 4 to be taught by a Music teacher from Barnsley Music hub either a brass instrument or recorder.  Our approach to the Music curriculum ensures that it is taught discretely to ensure depth and rigour. Each year group throughout school has a minimum of half an hour music weekly, with a dedicated assembly for singing together. Our Music Curriculum is underpinned by the accelerated learning approach to teaching and learning. The progressive curriculum document supports the progression of substantive content and concepts, which have been carefully selected and well-sequenced, so a child should know more and revisit knowledge and concepts to ensure depth and rigour over time. The key concepts, principles and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range of progressive knowledge and skills through which the children are helped to grow and develop to succeed in 21st century Britain. This progressive curriculum allows a purposeful way of teaching and learning, enabling us to provide a more meaningful and sequential approach to the scheme for Music.  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 3 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.  At Mapplewell Primary School we have segmented these pillars further to scaffold and support pupils development in music into 6 key areas:   * Singing * Listening * Composing * Musicianship * Performing * Musical History   Our musical curriculum content supports pupils in developing these 3 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 easily be adapted for pupils with additional needs.  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 subjects.  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.  In terms of qualifications and awards, our pupils have the opportunity to achieve various music qualifications and participate in music-related awards. These opportunities not only recognise their achievements but also motivate them to strive for excellence in their musical endeavours.  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. 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.

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| At Mapplewell Primary, 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 Singing Assemblies**  We are developing our music provision to include whole school singing assemblies. These assemblies are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience where children learn about pitch and notation. The collective experience of singing together also builds a sense of community and shared joy in music-making.  **After School Choir Club**  Our school provides the opportunity to be involved in our KS1 or KS2 choirs. Firstly our KS1 choir during a lunchtime is our starting point for building children’s confidence when performing as a group. They are supported by our Music Ambassadors who enjoy sharing their own musical talents to engage our young pupils. They perform concerts within school and at our local nursing home. Our after school choir club, is open to Key Stage 2 pupils, has been a vibrant part of our music programme throughout the academic year. The choir provides an opportunity for children to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony, and perform in front of live audiences, this has included performing within the local community, at school events and our local nursing home Notably, our choir has participated in prestigious events such as Young Voices and Barnsley Sing!, giving pupils the chance to experience the thrill of performing in large venues and being part of a larger musical community. These performances not only enhance their musical skills but also build confidence and teamwork.  **Instrumental Learning Opportunities**  We believe in the importance of instrumental learning as part of a well-rounded music education. At Mapplewell Primary, we provide whole-class ensemble teaching and small-group lessons to ensure that all pupils have the chance to learn an instrument.  This is supported by Barnsley Music Hub music teachers. Pupils have opportunities to learn brass instruments within Year 3 and 4. Our brass band rehearses together once a week led by our Music hub teacher and one of our Teaching assistants. They have performed with Grimethorpe Colliery band and in Brass festivals.  **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 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. Pupils have the opportunity to achieve their grades in an instrument. On a lunchtime we offer small group instrumental sessions including recorder, guitar and keyboard clubs.  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, Mapplewell Primary’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.

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| At Mapplewell Primary School, we are committed to nurturing confident, pupils who have a range of rich opportunities to immerse themselves within music. 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 are well-planned, coherent, and progressive, ensuring that all students benefit from them. For instance, we have held whole school concert performances in our hall, providing students with the opportunity to experience live music in a familiar setting. Additionally, the entire school attends a pantomime performance within school, which not only entertains but also educates students about different forms of theatrical expression.  Our commitment to exposing students to high-quality performances extends beyond the school premises. Varied year group students have visited the Lyceum Theatre to observe a professional theatre production, broadening their horizons and deepening their understanding of the performing arts.  A key feature of our music programme is the structured singing assembly, which involves all classes from Year 1 to Year 6. During these assemblies, children are taught essential vocal techniques, including warm-ups, correct posture and breathing exercises to improve vocal quality. This consistent practice not only enhances their singing abilities but also instils discipline and confidence.  We also offer numerous performance opportunities for our students. Our choir participates in events such as Young Voices and Barnsley Big Sing where they perform alongside thousands of other children, creating a memorable and inspiring experience. Additionally, we host performances by our brass and recorder ensembles at school and at the Metrodome, where students showcase their talents to the whole school and parents. These performances provide students with a platform to express themselves and gain confidence in their abilities.  Seasonal performances are another highlight of our music programme. In the autumn term, our EYFS perform at their own Harvest Festival, FS1 perform their Christmas nursery rhyme songs for Parents. Early Years and KS1 nativity performance, which brings the school community together to celebrate the festive season both in the Church and at school. Similarly, our KS2 students involved in music participate in their own concerts, where they perform for the whole school and the wider community. These events not only celebrate students' musical achievements but also strengthen community bonds. Our School Choir and brass band enjoy performing for parents in their own concerts and performances at our Summer Fayre.  Our Year 6 students have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-year production, performing on stage with musical accompaniment and vocals.  To ensure that music education is accessible to all, we subsidise the majority of our events and live performance visits for PP pupils In conclusion, our comprehensive music programme at Mapplewell Primary School is designed to provide students with a wide range of musical experiences. From attending live performances to participating in structured singing assemblies and seasonal concerts, 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.

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| At Mapplewell 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 students. 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.  **Embed Implementation of Half-Termly Front Covers:**  We aim to continue to develop tailored front covers that outline the key learning objectives and substantive and disciplinary knowledge for each half-term. This will ensure that music is taught regularly and systematically across all classes. This initiative will provide a clear structure for teachers and help students understand the progression of their learning. It will also facilitate better tracking of student progress and identification of areas needing improvement.  **Professional Development for Teachers:**  We will continue to conduct regular CPD sessions starting from the next term, focusing on identified needs through learning walks and staff feedback. These sessions will cover various aspects of music education, including new teaching strategies, assessment techniques, and use of technology in music. Enhancing teachers' skills and confidence in delivering music education will lead to more effective teaching and better student outcomes. C  This year we will be providing CPD for music through our partnership with BYC, this will include KS1 and KS2 workshops for pupils which also support staff in the teaching of singing, as well as on-line CPD linked to singing.  **Utilising Assessments for Gap Analysis:**  The music subject leader will regularly review assessment data to pinpoint areas where students potential gaps in students’ learning needs to be addressed. This process will begin immediately and continue throughout the year. By identifying and addressing gaps in learning, we can tailor our teaching to meet the needs of all students, ensuring that no child is left behind.  **Continue to introduce a wide range of new instruments:**  We will continue to build upon our percussion instruments in school ensuring each pupils within a whole class lesson is able to have their own instruments. |

## Further information:

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| To supplement our offer at school, the Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-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. |