Music development plan summary: Summer Lane Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/2027
Date this summary was published	03rd September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	J McClure
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J McClure, R Petty
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rock Steady

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.

Our Music Curriculum is underpinned by the accelerated learning approach to teaching and learning. The Summer Lane 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 Summer Lane, 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.

Summer Lane will continue to strengthen its music provision through a carefully sequenced curriculum that aligns with the principles of the Model Music Curriculum and National Curriculum. Music remains a discrete subject, with all pupils receiving at least one hour of music teaching each week, alongside additional opportunities through Barnsley Music Services and Rock Steady programmes.

The development and implementation of a bespoke listening playlist has ensured that pupils are exposed to a broad range of musical genres, styles, cultures and historical periods. As a result, pupils are becoming increasingly confident when discussing music, recognising musical features and expressing preferences using appropriate musical vocabulary.

The curriculum structure continues to provide a clear progression of knowledge and skills across all phases. The six identified strands of singing, listening, composing, musicianship, performing and musical history have supported teachers in delivering high-quality lessons and have enabled pupils to revisit and deepen their understanding over time. Evidence from lessons, pupil discussions and curriculum monitoring demonstrates that pupils are developing stronger musical knowledge and understanding as they move through school.

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.

Opportunities for practical music-making have also been maintained and enhanced. Pupils continue to benefit from specialist tuition through Barnsley Music Services and termly participation in Rock Steady programmes. These opportunities have increased pupil engagement and provided authentic performance experiences, supporting confidence and musical development. The school has continued to strengthen links with Barnsley Youth Choir and Barnsley services with live performances and singalong for all pupils.

After School Choir Club
Our after-school choir club, 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. Notably, our choir has participated in prestigious events such as Young Voices. 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.

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. 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. These are run by Rock Steady.

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.

In conclusion, Summer Lane's 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.

At Summer Lane Primary School, the curriculum remains ambitious and inclusive. Teachers continue to make appropriate adaptations to ensure that pupils with SEND can access the full music curriculum whilst maintaining high expectations. Sequenced learning and clear progression have ensured that pupils are able to build upon prior learning successfully.

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. We also work closely with our local community college, who offer us the opportunity to attend musical performances, performed by their students. We will also attend the college for workshops in their music department, to give the children exposure to a wider variety of instruments and opportunities. One of the schools' governors will provide a workshop, in each class in school throughout the year, demonstrating and explaining about different instruments.

We also offer numerous performance opportunities for our students. Our choir participates in events such as Young Voices, where they perform alongside thousands of other children, creating a memorable and inspiring experience. Rock Steady run a termly parent assembly to showcase pupil skills.

Seasonal performances are another highlight of our music programme. In the autumn term, we have an EYFS and KS1 nativity performance, which brings the school community together to celebrate the festive season. Similarly,

our KS2 choir participate in a Carols concert, 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 Year 6 students have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-year production, performing on stage with musical accompaniment and vocals.

In conclusion, our comprehensive music programme at Summer Lane Primary School is designed to provide students with a wide range of musical experiences. From attending live performances to participating in seasonal concerts, our students are immersed in a vibrant musical culture.

In the future

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

At Summer Lane Primary School, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music education following these steps:

1. Strengthen Assessment in Music. Further embed the assessment framework (Arbor) that enables teachers to accurately identify pupils' musical knowledge, skills and progression across the three pillars of technical, constructive and expressive development. This will provide clearer evidence of attainment and inform future curriculum planning.

2. Increase Opportunities for Performance. Extend opportunities for pupils to perform to wider audiences both within school and the local community. This will include participation in local music festivals, collaborative performances and regular showcase events across all key stages.

3. Enhance Instrumental Provision. Continue to further develop opportunities to increase whole-class and small-group instrumental learning experiences. This will ensure that a greater number of pupils develop practical instrumental skills alongside their existing curriculum experiences.

4. Further Develop Musical History and Cultural Understanding. Continue to broaden pupils' understanding of music from different traditions, cultures and historical contexts. This will ensure pupils gain a richer understanding of how music reflects society, identity and change over time.

5. Embed Consistency in Musical Vocabulary. Further strengthen the explicit teaching and application of musical vocabulary across all year groups to support pupils in articulating their musical understanding with increasing confidence and accuracy.

6. Staff CPD. Increased opportunities for staff to develop expertise and knowledge of the curriculum will further enhance teaching and learning quality across all key stages.

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.