



Music development plan Rickleton Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jo Holt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	Music Connects Sunderland
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.

Our intention is that all children, regardless of starting points, background, individual needs and ability, are inspired to develop a love of music.

By studying a carefully planned variety of music from local, national and world-wide cultures, they will gain a firm understanding of the impact music, past and present, can have on the lives of a range of people and cultures. Children will grow as creative learners, through improvising, composing and performing in a variety of formats. Our aim is to create performers who are proud to achieve, with the confidence to share their skills both with their peers and wider audiences. They will develop resilience, showing an ability to adapt when ideas do not work.

From EYFS through to the end of KS2, we aim to support all learners to investigate and explore; developing a curiosity and passion for the subject. Pupils will respectfully communicate their ideas, using appropriate musical language and celebrate the validity and importance of all styles of music. They will develop an unbiased respect for the role that music may have in any person's life, including way music can be used to support wellbeing and to overcome a variety of personal challenges; allowing all children to thrive.

We are committed to ensuring children understand the value and importance of music in the wider community, and can use their transferable musical skills, knowledge and experiences in a variety of contexts and across a variety of subjects.

In EYFS children participate in weekly Music lessons lasting 20-30 minutes (linked to music element of expressive art and design curriculum progression). In addition to this EYFS children attend weekly singing sessions across Reception and Nursery. Music is also present in continuous provision and children can access this at any time.

In EYFS we aim to provide children with opportunities to explore music through listening and appraising songs, singing and experimenting with percussion instruments. We encourage children to develop a preference for music genres, developing their knowledge of well-known songs and nursery rhymes. They begin to learn how to pitch-match when singing and use repetition of actions to support working memory. We promote the handling of different instruments carefully so children appreciate how to care and look after things. We introduce children to tempo, dynamics, tone, rhythm, pitch and pulse through music sessions as well as through enhancing our continuous provision. Children are taught how to move to music, using large gross motor actions, and to enjoy music alongside their peers.

In KS1 and KS2 children participate in weekly music lessons lasting a minimum of one hour. This includes a bespoke music curriculum, based on the Model Music Curriculum as well as a weekly key stage singing session.

During our weekly singing sessions children are taught how to sing, relating to the inter-related dimensions of music. In KS1 singing is at the heart of our music curriculum. Songs and chants underpin all areas of study. During our weekly singing sessions pupils in KS1 repeat key singing skills and gain confidence. They sing simple songs, chants and rhymes from memory, singing collectively and at the same pitch. Children in key stage two are able to build on singing skills from EYFS and KS1, they are also taught how to look after their voice, including how to warm up for singing. Children sing a broad range of songs, including those that involve singing in a round or those including syncopated rhythms, with a sense of ensemble and performance. This includes observing rhythm, phrasing, accurate pitching and appropriate style. By the end of KS2 our pupils have a secure understanding of good vocal production, careful listening and a well-developed sense of pitch. Pupils are able to sing in harmony and with musical delivery.

In addition to this, Music is threaded through collaborative learning weeks, termly celebrations and religious or cultural events.

In KS1 and KS2 our music curriculum ensures opportunities to be creative are built into termly planning. Lessons are inclusive, supporting all children regardless of their individual starting point, allowing all learners to thrive. The use of interactive resources such as Singup and Charanga supports staff as well as pupils, ensuring opportunities to apply the language of music, regularly re-visit musical elements to embed children's understanding and make links with other subjects are built in from EYFS through to Year 6; creating transferrable skills and enhancing and further developing children's understanding. By allowing children to sing, listen, appraise, improvise, compose and perform, children are encouraged to be curious and passionate about the subject and value its importance in the wider World as well as understand the benefits of using Music as a tool to support wellbeing. Children are encouraged to become respectful communicators, careful listeners and develop their resilience recognising that musical ideas do not always work.

Children in KS1 and KS2 have the opportunity to play a wide variety of instruments, including whole class instrumental teaching in Year 5. Instruments played currently include: Year 1 – Glockenspiel, Year 2 – Ocarina, Year 3 – Recorder, Year 4 – Boom whackers, Year 5 – Ukulele and Year 6 – Keyboard. In addition to this, children have the opportunity to play a variety of tuned and un-tuned classroom percussion and World percussion instruments.

Rickleton recently underwent a graded Ofsted inspection in June 2025. This included a deep dive in Music and was extremely successful. In addition to this Music leaders at RPS continue to work closely with Music Connects Sunderland to ensure we provide the best teaching and learning experiences for our pupils.

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.

Whilst at Rickleton children will be inspired by participating in collaborative learning weeks and by the wide variety of musical styles, genres and opportunities they experience throughout the year. They will feel comfortable to be curious, improvise and create unique pieces of music and will participate in inclusive lessons where provision is made to ensure no child is left out and individual needs are catered for. By having access to a varied programme in all key stages, this allows pupils to discover their personal creativity, identify personal strengths, as well as celebrating their individuality.

Outside of our music curriculum we offer a wide variety of opportunities and events to enhance our Music provision from EYFS to Year 6.

Throughout their time at Rickleton, pupils in our EYFS unit have opportunities to work with inspirational local musicians such as Bill Elliott and Tiny Tweeties, as well as musicians from a variety of World-wide contexts. Children regularly experience enrichment opportunities and perform in a variety of settings, celebrating the successes of their peers and being proud of their own achievements.

In KS1 and KS2 pupils have the opportunity to work with inspirational local performers, including Bill Elliott and visiting musicians such as drummers, brass players and percussionists. They can also participate in extra-curricular music tuition and be part of a 'Rock Band', with visiting musicians from Rocksteady. There is a charge for this and all information regarding this can be found at:

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/info-for-parents/>

Children who participate in Rocksteady lessons work alongside their band leader and can learn to play electric guitar, electric bass, drums, keyboards or vocals.

In KS2 pupils can sign up for music lessons with our visiting peripatetic music teachers. These lessons take place in our designated Music Room and run throughout the day, every day of the week. We currently offer lessons in woodwind, brass, piano, drums, violin and acoustic guitar. Lessons are delivered in pairs or small groups at a cost of £7 per lesson. This is paid a term in advance and instruments can be hired via the school office. Children in receipt of free school meals are offered subsidised lessons with a 50% discount on fees. There is a charge of £15 for instrument hire for the duration of lessons. Further information about music lessons can be requested from Mrs Dietz in our school office.

Our pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6 can participate in an after school 'Rockin Rickleton Choir'. This is an opportunity to enjoy singing as part of an ensemble, work as a team and develop performance skills. Our choir have many opportunities throughout the year to perform in a variety of places, including Beamish Museum, Durham Cathedral, Washington Arts Centre and Redhills Durham as well as performing in a variety of settings across the school.

Musicians who participate in our instrument tuition lessons, are invited to be part of our Music Ensemble, working alongside Mr Chinery (visiting peripatetic piano teacher.) This offers pupils the chance to play alongside others, perform and enjoy making music outside of their instrument tuition lesson. This club takes place during lunchtime and a small charge is incurred. Further information on this can be gained from the school office. This children who learn an instrument also take part in a yearly music concert for their peers, parents and carers.

Music leaders work closely with the Music Connects Sunderland to ensure they are kept up to date with the most recent updates and changes in Music and how this will impact our school. As part of our Music SLA, we fully fund a 'Rainbow Music Bursary' for one pupil from each KS2 year group. Successful pupils benefit from fully funded instrument tuition for the duration of their remaining time in school. This is up to 4 years of instrument tuition on an instrument of their choice. More information on how to apply for this bursary can be found at: <https://www.rickletonprimary.co.uk/music-1/>

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.

Whilst at Rickleton children will be inspired by music lessons on relevant local and World-wide contexts and by participating in enrichment opportunities in a carefully planned programme of experiences throughout the year.

Every child will participate in a live performance, this may be as part of a class assembly, Nativity, End of Key Stage performance or celebration event. EYFS and Year 1 perform a yearly Nativity Play, Year 2 perform an end of year show based on the theme of 'Summer', Year 3 and 4 perform in a Christingle event, Year 5 perform in a Christmas Carol event and Year 6 Perform in a Leaver's Showcase. In addition, every child performs in a class assembly. These are timetabled across the year and further information is shared on specific class pages of our website as well as via individual Class Dojo pages.

Each child will experience live music as part of a live performance. This includes visiting the Gala Theatre Pantomime, The Gala Theatre Studio, Durham Cathedral, Washington Arts Centre, Sunderland Empire Theatre and by visiting Theatre companies such as M&M Theatrical Productions Ltd coming in to perform live in school. These performances do incur a small fee. Pupils in receipt of free school meals are able to have a discreet conversation with our administration team in relation to full or partial funding for these events.

From EYFS to Year 6 all children participate in a weekly singing assembly where they focus on key singing skills including vocal health. Songs are based on termly themes, festivals and topics linking with our wider curriculum offer. Further information can be found in Part A of this document.

In the future

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

Our aims for the academic year ahead are:

- To further develop children's own knowledge of and preferences to musical styles, genres, composers and artists.
- To continue to evaluate and adapt our music curriculum, ensuring that it meets the needs of all pupils regardless of their starting points, background, individual needs and ability.
- To further develop staff knowledge and confidence in teaching music through high quality CPD.