Music development plan summary: Westlea Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-7
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Emma Davey
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Same
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Mr Nigel Hind – Brass Teacher

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

At Westlea Primary School, we know how important music is for our students' development and well-being. Our music curriculum, guided by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021), is designed to be comprehensive and inclusive, ensuring every student receives a high quality music education.

Children in Early Years sing and engage with music every day through the continuous provision. In Years 1-6. The children follow carefully chosen elements from Charanga (a multi-award-winning music teaching and learning platform). Its sequential approach carefully supports children's progression in knowledge and skills across a range of musical competencies. This is supplemented with songs from Singup.org that we subscribe to every year – ensuring that high quality songs that complement our foundation subjects can be accessed easily.

A key part of our program is hands-on music-making and we ensure that every year group receives music tuition.

Year 1: Non-tuned percussion (Spring)

Year 2: Glockenspiels (Spring)

Year 3: Glockenspiels (Autumn) / Ocarinas (Summer)

Year 4: Brass (All year)

Year 5: Recorders (Spring)

Year 6: Boomwhackers (Autumn)

Every student learns to play an instrument in a whole-class ensemble, which helps them develop their musical skills and learn the importance of working together. We also work with partners such as the Durham Music Service and the local music Academy to give our students expert guidance and chances to perform.

They also get to improve their singing and vocal skills both in class and through singing practises we hold once a week in each Key Stage.

Our Music curriculum is inclusive and accessible. At Westlea Primary we learn together to achieve success for all. Every child, regardless of additional needs (SEND), takes part and we remove any barriers to learning to make that happen.

Music helps bridge cultural gaps and brings our students together, creating a sense of belonging and respect, we ensure all of our learners can participate, regardless of background or having English as an Additional Language (EAL).

For the full inclusion strategy from Durham Music Service please see:

https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2bfb84dd-4957-4c91-8ed9-76acc2519122

Core areas of study include singing, listening and appraising, composing and improvising and instrumental performance. These are built cumulatively throughout the curriculum to ensure that all pupils develop their engagement with, and knowledge of, music over time.

❖ Our music curriculum aims to build a strong and rich musical culture in our school so that pupils can thrive.

❖ Music in this school is not just for those with a musical talent; all children appraise, compose and perform.

❖ Those with musical talent are recognised, supported and stretched through the curriculum and also invited to attend extra-curricular clubs such as choir or Seaham Music Academy.

❖ Music is a key part of our school culture.

Part B: Co-curricular music

At Westlea Primary School, our co-curricular music offer is designed to complement and enhance the musical education provided during lesson time. We are dedicated to fostering a vibrant and inclusive music community, where every student has the opportunity to explore their musical potential and achieve their goals.

We know how aspirational learning a music instrument is, so every child in Year 4 receives Brass tuition from the Durham Music Service. Tuition for a whole year is free (paid for from the school budget.) After that, our charging policy is designed to be fair and supportive. For families eligible for pupil premium, or in other particular circumstances, we provide free further tuition in years 5 and 6 to ensure that financial barriers do not prevent any student from continuing their learning.

Students can join the school choir which allows students to further develop their musical abilities, collaborate with peers, and perform in various school and community events such as performing carols at Tesco and the local old peoples home. Joining our choir is open to students from all year groups. We encourage all interested students to participate, regardless of their level of experience.

Our strong partnerships with Seaham High and our local music hub at Seaview Academy, play a crucial role in supporting our co-curricular music program. These collaborations provide our students with access to additional resources, expertise, and performance opportunities, enriching their overall musical experience.

Part C: Musical experiences

For the upcoming academic year, Westlea Primary School has an exciting array of musical experiences planned to enrich our students' education and foster a strong musical community. Regular events include singing in assemblies and weekly singing practises.

Both Key Stages hold a Harvest Festival in October were students from all year groups come together to perform through music and poetry and we invite parents to attend and celebrate with us.

At Christmas EYFS, KS1 and KS2 perform Christmas Shows to parents and the wider community. KS2 also have a Carol Concert which we hold at Christchurch in conjunction with the Reverend Anita.

Throughout the year, we will also host a series of concerts and shows at the school. All classes take turns to write, practise and perform a class assembly showcasing their talents and providing a platform for students to perform both solo and in ensembles. It is a unique opportunity for our children and provides valuable performance experience.

Year 3 enjoy taking part in the Big Sing at The Glasshouse Gateshead. This offers students the opportunity to experience a professional musical venue, perform with hundreds of others and broaden their cultural horizons. These trips are designed to foster a love of music and performing. This event is heavily subsidised by the school, ensuring inclusivity.

Through our strong partnerships with the local music hub, we are offered bands or singers to perform in assemblies for our children. These collaborations with professional musicians, ensure that our musical events and experiences are of the highest quality, enriching our students' learning and fostering a vibrant, inclusive musical culture at Westlea Primary School.

In the future

At Westlea Primary School, we're committed to continuously improving our music offer. Here's what we plan for the future:

Timetabled Curriculum Music: We maintain the curriculum time by providing at least one hour of music each week for Key Stages 1 and 2, ensuring our students get ample time to engage with music. This is split in to a half hour of music teaching weekly or an hour fortnightly, and a half hour of singing practise.

Access to Lessons Across a Range of Instruments and Voice: We already offer brass lessons, in the coming years, we plan to build an even stronger link with the Durham Music Service and offer a greater range of peripatetic lessons.

Space for rehearsals and individual practice: We are committed to offering more support for smaller, student-led bands to encourage independent musical exploration or for children who already attend lessons, give them space to practise.

Opportunity to enjoy more live performances: We're looking to strengthen our local partnerships to offer more performance visits.

These improvements are designed to enrich our students' musical education, providing them with more opportunities to explore, perform, and enjoy music.

Further Information

Music

'A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.'
Department of Education, National Curriculum.

At Westlea our aim is to provide a music curriculum which will enable each child to reach their full potential in music, encourage children to enjoy singing, composing and performing and provide children with the opportunity to perform in front of an audience both inside and outside of school.



Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
	Music					
1	Sing and chant expressively linked to Harvest Assembly and Christmas Play.		Hey You! Explore pulse, rhythm and pitch when singing and playing instruments.		Your imagination: Compose and perform a piece of music (linked to foundation topic.)	
2	Hands Feet Heart	Ho Ho Ho!	I wanna play in a band	Zoo time Easter: Glockenspiel, Hot Cross Buns.	Friendship song	Bringing us together: Glockenspiel recap and review of skills.
3	Let Your Spirit Fly	Glockenspiel Stage 1	Black Bird (Y4)	Preparation of The Big Sing	Preparation of The Big Sing	Whole class Ocarina teaching.
4	Brass lessons with Durham Music Service.	Brass lessons – Christmas concert for the school.	Brass lessons with Durham Music Service.	Brass lessons with Durham Music Service.	Brass lessons with Durham Music Service.	Brass lessons and Summer performance.
5	Make you feel my love.	The Fresh Prince of Bel Air.	Recorder lessons: Melodic phrases & rhythmic patterns.	Recorder lessons: Gustav Holst The Planets.	Dancing in the street.	Reflect and rewind – Summer Songs.
6	Boomwhakers – explore structure of music and record own notation.	Christmas Concert – develop pitch, performance techniques and ensembles.	Happy	You've got a friend	Music through the ages	End of year production: music & drama