Music Development Plan

[Grace Darling CoE Primary School] | 2026/27

Academic year this summary covers	*2026/2027*
Date this summary was published	*2.11.26(v3)*
Date this summary will be reviewed	*September 2027*
Head of Primary Music (NCEA Trust)	*Rebecca Glanville*
Grace Darling CoE Primary School Music Coordinator	*Kelly White & Mary Diffley*
Name of Local Music Hub	*Northumberland Music (Previously named Music Partnership North: Northumberland)*

Links:

National Curriculum for Music Education
Model Music Curriculum
The Power of Music to Change Lives – the National Plan for Music Education in England 2022-2030
Local Plan for Music Education (Northumberland Music)
EYFS Music Curriculum NCEA
EYFS Core Songs & Rhymes
NCEA Music Curriculum Long Term Plan
NCEA Music Intent
NCEA Singing Strategy
NCEA Composition Strategy
NCEA Listening Strategy

Music at Grace Darling

Curriculum Music

Area	What happens now	What we would like to see
Overview	Our ***EYFS Music Curriculum*** is based on Development Matters and has been devised to progress from our 2 year old provision through to Nursery and Reception and linked to the KS 1 curriculum and beyond to ensure meaningful musical progression. (Please see our EY Music Curriculum plan) In EYFS, our pupils take part in action songs and rhymes that are sung daily, taken initially from our 'core' songs & rhyme bank. They explore musical instruments and how to make sounds in different ways. They listen and move to different genres of music and are encouraged to express their feelings as well as making their own music, dancing and singing. Music is delivered with a 'little and often' approach and very much used to enhance the learning of all areas of the curriculum	Staff using the word 'pulse' instead of 'beat' Staff to develop their outdoor music areas
	KS1 / 2 - We follow the National Curriculum for Music Education. Music is also delivered with a 'little and often' approach, equalling approximately 1 hour per week. Our classroom staff teach **Curriculum Music Lessons** which tie in to our lines of enquiry and have been specifically planned by our Head of Primary Music to support non specialists in delivering the musical skills and knowledge as set out in the Model Music Curriculum. Children sing, perform, appreciate, listen and compose during musical activities which tie in to our lines of enquiry and are fully planned and resourced for our staff. There are also **stand alone music lessons** throughout the year to be delivered by the classroom teacher, which tie in to events such as World Music Day, Black History Month, International Women's Day and Pride. We also have **curriculum projects** which are delivered by our Trust music specialist. These are often more practical sessions which draw on the performance and multi instrumental skills of our Head of Primary Music. See our Music Curriculum Long Term Planning Document for further information.	Further training for year group specific staff to grow confidence with practical music making, especially composition **Singing**: That more staff use language relating to posture / breathing when singing during non music lessons.

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Whole Class Ensemble Tuition	In **Years 3, 4 & 5** our pupils receive **whole class instrumental tuition** through our Recorder & Brass 'Karate' scheme of work. Pupils can choose to continue learning in small groups in year 6. This project aims to ensure the rich local heritage of brass bands is kept alive in Newbiggin, and is partially funded by the Newbiggin by the Sea Partnership. **Who takes part** - Year 3 (Recorder), Year 4/5 (JHorn, Cornet or PBone **Length of experience** - Pupils complete 'Recorder Karate' for one term in year 3. This introduces them to musical notation and basic classroom behaviour expectations of whole class learning including performance etiquette. 'Brass Karate' commences in year 4 and pupils follow this scheme of work until the end of year 5. This enables pupils to make meaningful progress on one instrument whilst also learning music theory. They learn the same instrument for 2 years. **Who leads it** - Whole class lessons are delivered by Steph Chinery from Northumberland Music. **How instruments are provided / managed** - in year 3 pupils are given a coloured recorder of their choice which they are able to purchase off the school if they wish. This gives pupils ownership and a sense of excitement about the project. In year 4, a coloured plastic brass instrument is allocated to each child. This will be their instrument until the end of Year 5 and they are encouraged to respect the instrument and look after it. Our Head of Primary Music manages our instrument stock. Pupils are able to take home their brass instrument if a small returnable deposit is paid. In order to ensure pupils from low income households are still able to practise at home, an agreement can be made with the parent / carer if they agree to help look after the instrument. Parents / carers can choose to request a deposit refund at any time or choose to donate this to our school fund. The money will support the purchase of additional music resources for the school. Where possible, we try to help families purchase their child their own, affordable instrument. This could be the one they are learning on, a second hand instrument from our stores, or a new instrument from a music shop. We try to make this easy and affordable with the schools Rent to Buy Instrument Scheme which spreads the cost over 10 months with no interest to pay. If a deposit has already been paid, this will be	Improved parent / carer understanding of the wider benefits of learning an instrument & what the 'musical journey' at Grace Darling looks like

Area	What happens now	What we would like to see
	taken off the total cost. This scheme enables us to replenish our whole class stock with new instruments. **How it is budgeted and paid for** - Our instruments have almost exclusively been purchased over the years using funds from a variety of external sources. The Newbiggin by the Sea Partnership, Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band, James Knott Foundation, Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, the Endowment Fund etc. Whole-class brass lessons and small-group tuition are currently provided by Northumberland Music through the Service Level Agreement (SLA). Previously, small-group tuition was financially supported by the Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Partnership (NbtSP). However, following the cessation of the Partnership, this funding is no longer available, resulting in an increased financial commitment for the school. Despite the loss of this external funding, accessing provision through the SLA has enabled the school to maintain continuity of provision and retain the same specialist tutor. This consistency is beneficial in supporting pupils' musical progression and developing sustained relationships with the tutor, although it does represent an additional cost to the school. During musical performances and events we always have a raffle, refreshments or other means of fundraising which enables us to purchase miscellaneous items as required. We request that pupils make a donation towards the cost of books, reeds, valve oil etc if they are having lessons in small groups however it is made clear that this should not be a barrier for pupils from low income households receiving lessons. **Continuation options** - Mrs Chinery will continue to teach brass to our year 6 pupils who choose to continue learning their instrument following whole class tuition. These pupils aim to complete an in-house Debut Grade standard assessment at the end of the academic year. This assessment follows the standards of an ABRSM exam and is marked by Head of Primary Music - Rebecca Glanville and moderated by instrumental tutors from across the Trust. Our links with the Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band and peripatetic tutors at Duke's have also helped build numbers in the secondary concert band.	

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	If a pupil decides to continue with lessons in year 6 where possible we upgrade them from their plastic instrument to a metal instrument. Depending on the individual's embouchure, a change may be made between upper and lower brass.	
CoCurricular / Cultural Capital Music Experiences	**EYFS** - **Early Years Music Workshops -** delivered by staff from The Glasshouse ICM. Will happen again this year if we can raise the funding through donations at events such as Carol Singing in Asda. **KS1** - **Year 2 - Theatre Visit -** Pantomime @ Blyth Phoenix Theatre **LKS2** - **Year 3 - Miners Picnic** Vocal and artistic workshops culminating in a whole Trust Miners Picnic celebration - **Year 3 - Country Dancing** Performing traditional dances with a live band **UKS2** - **Year 6 - World Music Sessions** Using our specialist Gamelan and Samba Rooms at the Robert Stephenson building as well as our Steel Pan set here at Grace Darling. - **Year 6 - Leavers Assembly Production** A hired in production company works with pupils to put on versions of shows such as 'Grease' 1-2-1 private piano lessons are also available for pupils in years 1-6. These can be purchased termly directly with Miss Woodcock. Books are supplied for free, and children can also borrow a keyboard if needed. There is currently a waiting list.	To continue our work in making this an ongoing unit with live music, rather than a 1 off
Extra Curricular Music	At Grace Darling, we have a wide range of Extra Curricular Music Groups available for our pupils to join both at lunch times and after school. Mondays 3.30pm - 4.15pm - ***School Choir Years 1-6*** - with Mrs White Tuesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm - ***Steel by the Sea*** (Steel pan group formally funded by NbTP, now funded by Lexham Properties)	Improved parent engagement with commitment for after school clubs

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	Fridays 12.15pm - ***'Brass Band' Years 4-6*** - for all pupils who learn brass instruments inside school Tuesdays (Autumn Term) 3.30pm - 4.30pm - **Disney Dance Club Years 1 - 2** with All Star Productions **Outcomes (impact), including continuation rate** The uptake for these clubs varies year on year, and there is normally a drop off after the first few weeks in September if pupils decide it's not something they would like to continue with. From this point the clubs generally have the same 'core' group of pupils attending and are encouraged to continue for the full term so that they can take part in an end of term performance. We offer **VIP Golden Tickets** to join extra curricular groups to those who show a particular talent and children recognise that these are very special invitations. All pupils who learn via our 'Endangered Instrument Programme' are required to attend Concert Band. Our extra curricular groups have performance opportunities each term and recordings are regularly posted on to www.soundcloud.com so that parents / carers can listen at home. **Autumn Term** Choir - Care Home Carols & Playground Performance **Spring Term** Choir / Steel Pans / Brass Band + KS2 Instrumentalists - Annual Music Showcase **Summer Term** Choir / Steel Pans / Brass Band - Proms in the Playgroup Performances	Children's resilience to improve with regards to commitment - i.e not quitting a group just before a performance

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Singing	Previously, we were classes as a *Singing Ambassador School* for Northumberland Music, however due to changes in our timetable, which have limited opportunities for effective singing practice, we no longer feel that we can hold this title. Children sing regularly with their own teaching staff and during worship. Pupils should aim to sing their songs with good posture, tone and diction. Singing is encouraged in other lessons to help explore subject content in all areas of the curriculum. Our 'core' EYFS Songs & Rhymes and Singing Praises repertoire allows effective progression through the year groups. This was implemented in September 2023 and will enable students to learn a wide variety repertoire from various time periods and styles, eventually leading to confident part and harmony singing in larger groups. Classes have access to additional singing workshops and events with groups such as The Royal Opera House and The Hirst Park Revival Project. Those who take part in Choir also have the opportunity to sing in concerts alongside groups such as Rock Choir, Choir by the Sea and the Ashington Music Society. Pupils hear recordings of singers regularly as part of our set Listening pieces, and listen to staff model singing when in class / assemblies. As the majority of our staff are female, students do not often hear live male singers. Pupils in years 1-6 can access a regular school extra curricular choir, as well as an NCEAT Primary Choir for selected events throughout the year. **<u>Singing Performance Opportunities</u>** **Autumn Term** Harvest Festival Christmas Church Services Seasonal Production *Choir - Playground Performance / Care Home Carols* **Spring Term** Easter Church Services *Choir - Grace Darling Music Showcase* *NCEA Trust Choir - Community Choir Concert* **Summer Term** Year 1 Specialist Project - Classroom Choir *Choir - Proms in the Playground Performance*	To regain Singing Ambassador School Status Many of our students project too much which impacts the quality of sound over all. We would like to see staff using language around projection and volume in order to ensure quieter, higher quality singing. Part singing in assemblies to be introduced where possible Year 6 pupils to remain engaged with singing throughout the year as pupils can become reluctant to sing towards the end of KS2 Classroom staff should do more to encourage children to adopt the 'Superhero - Supersinger' pose to increase confidence, elevate self esteem and ensure good posture for singing We would like to introduce accompanying makaton videos for use in assemblies

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	1 x whole school worship weekly *5 x class worship (daily)* **<u>Resources</u>** ● 'Core' EYFS progression songs and rhymes ● 'Core' Singing Praises songs & hymns ● Out of the Ark – with 'Words on Screen' eSong books to support literacy ● Selected youtube / NCEA 'Words of Screen' videos ● Seasonal song lists with booklets to support literacy We also have a Trust Staff Choir led by our Head of Primary Music. This group performs at events such as the Staff Christmas Service.	Singing Praise leaders working on whole school part singing
Resources	KS1&2 have an excellent **instrument resource bank** which staff are able to easily access if needed during music lessons, which includes 2 classroom sets of mixed percussion instruments, a whole class set of chime bars as well as a piano, several keyboards, guitars, bass guitars and additional percussion instruments including drum kits. All tuned instruments are colour coded using the colours of the rainbow, with C first being red. This supports the teaching of music to multiple instruments at once. Most instruments are kept on a trolly in the hall for staff to access when needed, or in the upstairs music room. Children are encouraged to use their instrument from whole class / small group instrumental learning if appropriate to the task. We have created 'Active Music Listening' boxes, containing items such as scarves for use within music sessions. EYFS classrooms contain boxes of mixed percussion instruments as well as outdoor music areas. This area contains instruments such as boomwhackers, dustbin lids and bells. We have also purchased outdoor percussion boxes, containing a mixture of instruments for children to explore at break times on each yard.	Staff access classroom percussion instruments and use correct beaters / vocabulary when using them Music Composition boxes created to support composition within the classroom

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Technology	There are class sets of Chromebooks, PC's and iPads in our school which can be booked and used when needed. At NCEA, we use 'Purple Mash' for Computing, and it is through this **digital resource** pupils can complete several composition tasks as a cross curricular activity. We also use websites such as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Listening Guide and Youtube when needed to play examples for pupils where this is not possible to demonstrate live. Staff upload recordings to the 'Soundcloud' website, allowing pupils to showcase their work to a wider audience and encourage parent engagement. An award is presented each half term within Achievement Assembly to the group with the most amount of 'listens' in that time period. Staff can view and share online statistics with pupils re global location of listens, top plays, social shares. This opens conversations around online safety, geography etc.	More consistent uploads of performances from curriculum music lessons as well as instrumental lessons
Opportunities to experience live music performance	Pupils have the opportunity to listen to live music many times throughout their time in primary school. This is both within school and whilst on educational visits. Our excellent links with local groups such as Choir by the Sea, The Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band and The Band of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers has enabled live music to play a prominent part at our school. In order to create small ensembles for performances we also draw on our strong links with musician parents, carers and our feeder secondary school. These performance opportunities are **all free for pupils**. **Autumn Term** - Live Last Post performance in Remembrance Day Assembly - Christmas Lunch Band - Approx 10 musicians from the Community & Dukes perform Christmas arrangements whilst pupils enjoy their Christmas dinner. - Choir Performance - during their last rehearsal of the term, choir sing Christmas songs outside across hometime for the school community. **Spring Term** - Community Band - Inspiring performance as part of the Music Showcase	Concert Band / Brass groups to play outside at Christmas Time

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	Summer Term - Miners Picnic (Y3) - Dukes Wind Band to perform for Banner Parade, then Community Band to perform over lunch time -Proms in the Playground - Our extra curricular groups perform outside for the local community across hometime Pupils also hear staff playing instruments such as piano & guitar in assemblies. Staff are encouraged to share their love of music with our pupils, especially if they are musicians themselves. We have a strong relationship with the **Yamaha School of Music in Blyth**. For the third year running they are providing a free assembly for pupils, demonstrating instrumental families and offering free taster sessions. Our use of school mini buses keeps transport costs to a minimum. Where possible we apply to grants to cover the costs of transport or use money generated from showcases etc to subsidise this. We rarely ask for parental contributions..	
Inclusion	**Adaptation** - We recognise that there are children of widely different musical abilities in all classes, so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. **SEND** - We will strive to remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music. **Assessment** - On-going Assessment for Learning (AfL) practices within class and group sessions, including the sharing of and reference being made to Key Words relevant to each stage of musical learning. Assessments are used diagnostically by teachers to evaluate learning and inform teaching. Formative assessments are recorded on our foundation subject assessment trackers, whilst the 'belt' system is used for our Karate schemes of work.	Music Therapy sessions

2026/2027 Focus Areas

Staff using the 'core' EYFS songs & rhymes before exploring other material	***Achieved 2026*** *Staff are aware of core repertoire and are using it before exploring other material.*
EYFS Staff using the word 'pulse' instead of 'beat'	***Area still to focus on***
Staff to develop their outdoor music areas	***Area still to focus on*** *- Sept 2026 New outdoor instrument boxes purchased for each yard area and encouraged use at play times.*
Country Dancing (Y3 PE cross curricular unit) performed with a live band	***Partially Achieved 2025/2026*** *Worked with What a Wonderful World Festival who provided a facilitator to lead a session. We want to build live music in to the unit rather than it being a one off.*
To regain 'Singing Ambassador School' status	***Area still to focus on***
More consistent uploads to Soundcloud of performances from curriculum music lessons as well as instrumental lessons	***Area still to focus on 26/27*** *- most recordings are made by Head of Primary Music, staff need to be more consistent with their own evidencing*
Listening: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods	***Achieved 2026*** *Following on from a TA Music training session, music is being played more and more during transitional periods and play times. Playlists have been created based on Model Music Curriculum listening pieces so that children are exposed to music from a wide range of periods, styles and genres.*
Launch of new lunchtime Brass Band	***Area still to focus on***
Introduction of music therapy	***Area still to focus on 26/27*** *-* *A term of music therapy has been secured with practitioner Kim Saul.*
Improved parent / carer understanding of the wider benefits of learning an instrument & what the 'musical journey' at Grace Darling looks like	

2025/2026 Focus Areas

Arrange to take Y6 instrumentalists to Yamaha Music School Brass concerts Monday Mornings	*For the third consecutive year, we have welcomed YMS into school to deliver a whole-school assembly. This year's assembly will explore the development of keyboard instruments, following previous sessions focusing on pop band instruments and instrumental families. While it has not yet been feasible to take pupils to visit YMS due to the distance from Blyth and the concerts they have on offer, we will continue to explore opportunities for pupils to engage with YMS beyond the school setting in the future.*
Children who have moved up in to secondary invited back to create a 'community' steel pan ensemble	***Achieved 2025/26*** *Good links are made with secondary parents, and 8 children are now returning each week from year 7 & 8. Additional safeguarding procedures are in place, and the group are well attended.*
Country Dancing (Y3 PE cross curricular unit) performed with a live band	***Area still to focus on 26/27*** *This year we worked with What a Wonderful World Charity, who provided a facilitator to lead a country dancing session with the class. We will look to do this again next year if possible to create an ongoing collaboration.*
To regain 'Singing Ambassador School' status	***Area still to focus on 26/27*** *Singing has improved at the school, as there is a well attended choir. These children model good singing at the front of Worship which has had a positive impact, however there is no time for whole school singing practise on the timetable currently.*
More consistent uploads to Soundcloud of performances from curriculum music lessons as well as instrumental lessons	***Area still to focus on 26/27*** *- most recordings are made by Head of Primary Music, staff need to be more consistent with their own evidencing*
Staff choir - refine rehearsal dates to make this more accessible for staff from the whole Trust, rather than just Primary	***2025 -*** *One session in December 2025 worked well. Staff from Castle and some primaries attended. Looking to do similar in 2026*
For choir to complete a Christmas performance in Asda - good community engagement & fundraising for EYFS music sessions	***Achieved 2025/26*** *Good links were made with Community Champion, and we have organised to take the choir again this year.*
Staff to use new resources in EYFS music sessions.	***Achieved 2025/26***

	New resources such as lycra, stretch bands, Suzuki Pads, tuned percussion instruments and other colour coded instruments have been provided and are being used by staff within lessons.
Listening: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods	***Area still to focus on 26/27***
Launch of new lunchtime Brass Band	***Area still to focus on 26/27 -*** *The brass group worked well in the lead up to the Easter Showcase. Would like to focus on growing numbers this year as most who attended have now moved up to secondary school.*
Introduction of music therapy	***Area still to focus on 26/27 -*** *A training placement through Nordoff Robbins was arranged, but cancelled last minute. Continuing to look for ways to explore this*

2024/2025 Focus Areas

Arrange to take Y6 instrumentalists to Yamaha Music School Brass concerts Monday Mornings	*Area still to focus on 2025 / 2026 - this is solely dependant on the YMS concert programme*
Country Dancing (Y3 PE cross curricular unit) performed with a live band	*Still a focus area*
Additional resources for our EYFS SEND children	***Achieved 2024 / 2025*** *Resources including steel tongue drums, lycra, scrunchies and colour coded keyboards have been placed in classrooms / communal areas for independent use, and use within lessons.*
To update our classroom percussion boxes, ensuring a wide variety of instruments and relevant beaters.	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Instruments sorted into 2 classroom musical instrument boxes, new ones purchased where needed. New wooden and soft rubber beaters purchased. All broken instruments are gone. Spare instruments given to EYFS classrooms. At least 3 of each instrument in the boxes. Also included information re types of beaters / instruments in each box.*
Staff to use the newly created EYFS Music Planning Ideas document to share good practise and ideas	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Shared with EYFS staff during training sessions. Received positive feedback regarding this and new resources.*

Plan a ‘cultural capital’ event for year 1 pupils.	*No specific event has been planned for Year 1, however these children have been in part of events such as the Fusiliers Band Performance and the Yamaha Music School Assemblies.*
Theatre Visit (Y2 - Pantomime)	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Visit will now be annual*