Music Development Plan

[James Knott CoE Primary School] | 2026/27

Academic year this summary covers	*2026/2027*
Date this summary was published	*02.11.26 (v3)*
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Head of Primary Music (NCEA Trust)	*Rebecca Glanville*
James Knott CoE Primary School Music Coordinator	*Helen Stewart*
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 James Knott

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 using the 'core' EYFS songs & rhymes before exploring other material Staff to develop their outdoor music areas Staff to use new resources in EYFS music sessions
	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 **Listening**: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods **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** our pupils receive **whole class instrumental tuition** through our Recorder & Saxophone 'Karate' scheme of work. Pupils can choose to continue learning in small groups in years 5 & 6. **Who takes part** - Year 3 (Recorder), Year 4/5 (JSax), Year 6 (Alto Sax / Soprano Sax / Clarinet) **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. **'Saxophone Karate'** begins as a comprehensive, whole-class music programme in Year 4, with pupils given the option to continue in Year 5. This approach ensures that all pupils gain experience in learning an instrument, while also allowing some to make significant progress on a single instrument and develop their understanding of music theory by maintaining continuity. For those who choose to continue, the programme supports sustained musical growth over multiple years and allows pupils to work in smaller, differentiated groups. **Who leads it** - Whole class lessons are delivered by our Head of Primary Music, whilst small group tuition takes place with Jo Woodcock; a peripatetic music tutor and professional saxophone player. **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 NUVO Jsax 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 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.	Digital resources are available for pupils to use to practise at home but we need to develop a better way to share these with our pupils Improved parent / carer understanding of the wider benefits of learning an instrument & what the 'musical journey' at JK looks like

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	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 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. Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, the Endowment Fund etc. Funding for the whole class & small group lessons comes out of the school budget. 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** - Miss Woodcock teaches jSax, alto / soprano saxophone & clarinet to our year 5 & 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. Miss Woodcock also works with NCEA for transition events involving the secondary school. This has very much helped with pupils continuing with their instrumental lessons and helped build a strong Concert Band up at Dukes. If a pupil decides to continue with lessons in year 6 we upgrade them from their plastic instrument to a metal instrument.	

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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 at Grace Darling. 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.	Country Dancing live band - focus point from previous year Steel Pan Space and Samba equipment to be used.
Extra Curricular Music	At James Knott, we currently have a school choir. We plan to start a KS2 Woodwind Group in the run up to Christmas so that instrumentalists also have an extra curricular opportunity. Mondays 3.30pm - 4pm - ***School Choir Years 1-6*** - with Mrs Stewart Tuesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Autumn Term) - **Little Movers, Reception - Year 2** with Little Movers Thursdays (Spring Term) 3.30pm - 4.30pm - **Acro Dance Club Years 3-6** with All Star Productions Thursdays (Summer Term) 3.30pm - 4.30pm - **Musical Theatre Club Years 3-6** with All Star Productions	Children's resilience to improve with regards to commitment - i.e not quitting a group just before a performance

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	Outcomes (impact), including continuation rate The uptake for 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. 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 / Woodwind Group - Annual Music Showcase **Summer Term** Choir / Woodwind Group - Proms in the Playgroup Performances	
Singing	We are a Singing Ambassador school for Northumberland Music. Children sing regularly with both our Singing Praises Leader, in assemblies and with their own teaching staff. 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. 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	We would like to see staff using language around projection and volume in order to ensure quieter, higher quality singing. 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

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	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 (bi annually) Seasonal Carols & Crafts (bi annually) *Choir - Playground Performance / Care Home Carols* **Spring Term** Easter Church Services *Choir - School Music Showcase* *NCEA Trust Choir - Community Choir Concert* **Summer Term** *Choir - Proms in the Playground Performance* + *class worship assemblies per year* **<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.	'Superhero - Supersinger' pose to increase confidence, elevate self esteem & ensure good posture for singing We would like to introduce accompanying makaton videos for use in assemblies 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 glockenspiels as well as a piano, several keyboards, guitars, and additional percussion instruments.	Staff access classroom percussion instruments and use correct beaters / vocabulary when using them

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	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 of the whole class tuition instruments are kept in storage trolleys either on the upstairs corridor or in classrooms. Some instruments are kept in Room 16 for staff to access when needed. During practical sessions, staff can utilise this space as well as other break out rooms and free spaces to allow pupils to work in smaller groups. Children are encouraged to use their instrument from whole class / small group instrumental learning if appropriate to the task. We have '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.	Music Composition boxes created to support composition within the classroom
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

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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 **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, this time demonstrating the development of the piano and offering free sessions. Where possible, we also take our pupils to see concerts at YSM featuring professional musicians performing the instruments our children are learning. 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	Parents to be involved with the community band which consists currently of just staff

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	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. Children who are showing a greater depth are also pushed further and given support by staff. 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.	

2026/2027 Focus Areas

Singing Praise leaders working on whole school part singing	*Area still to focus on from 2024/2025*
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.*
Steel pan space to be utilised and for Year 6 pupils to have attended a session there	***Partially Achieved 2025/26*** *The Steel pan space is now set up, JK pupils will visit later in the 2027 Summer Term. Y5 JK pupils have taken part in trialled Samba workshops in Summer 2026, tying in with their World Music Day lesson planning.*
Staff to use new resources in EYFS music sessions.	***Long term area of focus on 26/27 -***
Listening: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods	***Area still to focus on***
Staff accessing classroom percussion instruments and using correct beaters / vocabulary when using them	*Long term area of focus - Training delivered Sept 2025 and supporting videos made available.*
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*
Singing: That more staff use language relating to posture / breathing when singing during non music lessons.	
Singing: Classroom staff should do more to encourage children to adopt the 'Superhero - Supersinger' pose to increase confidence, elevate self esteem & ensure good posture for singing	
Improved parent / carer understanding of the wider benefits of learning an instrument & what the 'musical journey' at JK looks like	

2025/2026 Focus Areas

Singing Praise leaders working on whole school part singing	*Area still to focus on from 2024/2025*
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 start a lunch time woodwind group	***Achieved 2026:*** *Pupils attend a lunch time group each Wednesday*
Steel pan space to be utilised and for Year 6 pupils to have attended a session there	***Partially Achieved 2025/26*** *The Steel pan space is now set up, JK pupils will visit later in the 2027 Summer Term. Y5 JK pupils have taken part in trialled Samba workshops in Summer 2026, tying in with their World Music Day lesson planning.*
Staff to use new resources in EYFS music sessions.	***Long term area of focus on 26/27 -***
Listening: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods	***Area still to focus on***
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 next academic year.*
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*
Staff accessing classroom percussion instruments and using correct beaters / vocabulary when using them	*Training delivered Sept 2025 and supporting videos made available.*
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*

2024/2025 Focus Areas

Arrange to take Y6 instrumentalists to Yamaha Music School concerts Monday Mornings	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Will continue to take pupils where possible going forward*
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 box. Also included information re types of beaters / instruments in each box.*
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.*
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.*
To introduce EYFS Music Specialist Sessions	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Workshops completed with Rachel Church from the Glasshouse ICM EYFS programme. We will look to continue these if we can fundraise throughout the year to cover the cost of sessions.*
Some saxophones are too large for year 6 pupils. Offer clarinet to those pupils	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Introduced clarinet option for those who wish to continue but whose hands are not large enough to play the saxophone*