Music Development Plan

[Bishop's CoE Primary School] | 2026/2027

Academic year this summary covers	*2026/2027*
Date this summary was published	*24.9.2026 (v3)*
Date this summary will be reviewed	*September 2027*
Head of Primary Music (NCEA Trust)	*Rebecca Glanville*
Bishop's Primary School Music Coordinator	*Rachel Malt*
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 (2023-2024 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 Bishop's Primary School

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
	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. 'Singing Posture'

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Whole Class Instrumental Tuition	In **Years 3 & 4** our pupils receive **whole class instrumental tuition** through our 'Instrument Karate' schemes of work. Pupils can choose to continue learning in small groups in years 5 & 6. This project aims to ensure that pupils from all backgrounds get the opportunity to learn an instrument and make meaningful progress over time. **Who takes part** - Year 3: Recorder. Year 4 on a 3 year rotation: Year A: violin & guitar, Year B: cello & tuned percussion Year C: ukulele & mandolin. **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. **'Instrument 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. Small group lessons are delivered by a team of self employed instrumental tutors. **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, each child is assigned an instrument to keep until the end of Year 5, and they are encouraged to care for it responsibly. Our Head of Primary Music oversees the instrument inventory, allowing students to bring their instruments home with a small refundable deposit. To support students from low-income households, a special agreement can be arranged with parents or carers, ensuring they can practise at home while committing to maintaining the instrument. Parents and carers may request a deposit	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 understanding of music in our school, the benefits of music education and how they can support their child.

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	refund at any time or opt to donate it to our school fund, which will then be used to acquire additional music resources. 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. Ashington Town Council, Universal Music UK Sound Foundation, the Endowment Fund etc. The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers have also loaned us several orchestral percussion instruments. Funding for the whole class and 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, strings, plectrums 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** - Mr. Cronin, Mrs Simm and Mrs Macleod are self-employed music tutors, who teach the year 5 and year 6 students in small groups. These pupils have opted to continue developing their instrumental skills after whole-class lessons, with the goal of completing an in-house Grade 1 standard assessment at the end of the academic year. This assessment follows the standards of an ABRSM exam and is moderated by the Director of Creative Arts at Dukes Secondary School to facilitate a smoother transition.	Children from Duke's returning to Bishop's Band as leaders and ambassadors.

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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. - **At Sea (Life and Limb Puppets)** Year 6 pupils from across the Trust came together for the 3rd year running to experience a fantastical puppet adventure. 'At Sea' was a subversive performance which took place in the blacked out Drama Studio at Duke's. The narrative explores themes of triumph over darkness and the challenges faced during the quest, culminating in a visually stunning and emotionally impactful performance. **Whole School -** Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers At the end of July 2026, The Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers marched on to our playground and performed an uplifting repertoire to our whole school, including year 7 from Duke's Secondary School, and many students from Castle School. This was a fantastic way to bring our schools together and an inspirational experience for staff and students. Pupils also hear staff playing instruments such as piano in assemblies. Staff are encouraged to share their love of music with our pupils, especially if they are musicians themselves.	Country Dancing live band - focus point from previous year Steel Pan and Samba Space being used by Bishop's Primary School

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	1-2-1 private piano lessons are also available for pupils in years 1-6. These can be purchased termly directly with Mrs Simm. Books are supplied for free, and children can also borrow a keyboard if needed.	
Extra Curricular Music	At Bishop's Primary School, we have a wide range of Extra Curricular Music Groups available for our pupils to join both at lunch times and after school. These are run by either school staff, or self employed music tutors.. Mondays 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Spring Term) - **Little Movers, Reception** with Little Movers Tuesdays 3.30pm - 4.15pm - ***Singing Group Years 1-3*** with Mrs Malt. Tuesdays 12:15 - 12:40pm - ***Choir Years 4-6*** with Mrs Glanville. Tuesdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm - ***Bishop's Band*** *with Mr Cronin* (Ensemble for all instrumentalists) Thursdays 3.30pm - 4.30pm (Autumn Term) - **Musical Theatre Club** 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. 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, Performance in ASDA & Playground Performance	Improved parent engagement with commitment for after school clubs, as sometimes parents do not encourage their children to continue attending a club until the end of the period. Children's resilience to improve with regards to commitment - i.e not quitting a group just before a performance

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	Spring Term Choir / Singing Group / Bishop's Band + KS2 Instrumentalists - Annual Music Showcase **Summer Term** Choir / Singing Group / Bishop's Band - 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 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	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 '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

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	Choir - Music Showcase **Summer Term** *Choir - Proms in the Playground Performance* **<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.	
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. 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 recently 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. There are also colour coded instruments such as bells, keyboards and Suzuki Music Pads which students can access	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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	along with colour coded music for independent and group performance.	
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, the choir sings Christmas songs outside across hometime for the school community. **Spring Term** - Community Band - Inspiring performance as part of the Music Showcase	

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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 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.	
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. Where possible, we invite Castle's Makaton choir to also take part in our performance opportunities such as performing at the Easter Showcase, or at the Merry Little Christmas Play Day. **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 encouraged to join Bishop's Band for further support. 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.	Additional resources for our EYFS SEND children

2026 / 2027 Focus Areas

Country Dancing (Y3 PE cross curricular unit) performed with a live band	***Partially Achieved 2025/2026***
Steel pan and Samba spaces to be utilised and for Year 6 pupils to have attended a session there	***Partially Achieved 2025/26***
Staff accessing classroom percussion instruments and using correct beaters / vocabulary when using them	***Partially Achieved 2025/26***
More consistent uploads to Soundcloud of performances from curriculum music lessons as well as instrumental lessons	***Partially Achieved 2025 / 2026***
To open up Bishop's Band for Duke's secondary pupils. This will inspire our primary pupils and allow the group to perform more challenging work. Duke's currently has a windband, but nothing for string players.	***Partially Achieved 2025 / 2026***
Singing: That more staff use language relating to posture / breathing when singing during non music lessons.	
Improved Parent understanding of music in our school, the benefits of music education and how they can support their child.	

2025 / 2026 Focus Areas

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.*
Singing Praise leaders working on whole school part singing	***Achieved 2025/26*** *During Singing Praises, pupils work well as a singing team and can confidently sing in parts.*
To open up Bishop's Band for Duke's secondary pupils. This will inspire our primary pupils and allow the group to perform more challenging work. Duke's currently has a windband, but nothing for string players.	*Due to the group dynamic, we did not open Bishop's Band to Duke's pupils this year. Will look to in the future.*
Staff to use new resources in EYFS music sessions.	***Achieved 2025/2026*** *EYFS have been provided with lots of new resources inc. Suzuki Music Pads and other colour coded instruments as well as tuned percussion and outdoor instruments which are now in use.*
Listening: Further 'listening' to music during transitional periods	***Achieved 2025/2026*** *Training session showcased use of activities such as Music Tracing and use of Core Listening tracks to accompany other activities*
Last academic year, year 3 pupils did not receive recorder tuition due to time restraints / specialist staff timetabling. This year the project is timetabled for the Spring or Summer term	***Achieved 2025/2026*** *This academic year, year 3 pupils took part in the recorder karate project, and plans are to continue this annually.*
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 has been trialled with pupils from another trust school. If timetabling allows, we will take Bishop's pupils next academic year. We also created a Samba experience this year which we brought out to Year 6 pupils in the summer term and completed sessions using this equipment, further enhancing our World Music offer.*
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.*

To purchase bass guitars / amps / leads to enable year 6 guitarists to move on to electric instruments. This will also help support lower ability year 6 complete.	***Achieved 2025/26*** *Purchased October 2025. Instruments in use with year 6 pupils.*
Staff accessing classroom percussion instruments and using correct beaters / vocabulary when using them	***Partially Achieved 2025/26*** *Training delivered Sept 2025 and supporting videos made available. Instruments not really in use by classroom staff - mainly used by specialist.*
More consistent uploads to Soundcloud of performances from curriculum music lessons as well as instrumental lessons	***Partially Achieved 2025 / 2026*** *- most recordings are made by Head of Primary Music and piano tutor. Need evidence to be recorded more frequently from other instrumental and classroom staff.*
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*

2024/2025 Focus Areas

Singing Praise leaders working on whole school part singing	*Area still to focus on*
Country Dancing (Y3 PE cross curricular unit) performed with a live band	*Area still to focus on*
Arrange to take Y6 instrumentalists to Yamaha Music School concerts Monday Mornings	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Will continue to take pupils where possible going forward. In December, Year 6 guitar pupils were able to watch Andy Watt & Dan Rogers, whilst violin pupils experienced the Westerly Trio in relaxed performances. We will continue this going forward, if the concerts are the correct instrumentation for our pupils.*
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.*
To open up Bishop's Band for Duke's secondary pupils. This will inspire our primary pupils and allow the group to perform more challenging work. Duke's currently has a windband, but nothing for string players.	*We found that the secondary pupils did not commit to the group once the novelty of returning to primary school wore off. We will perhaps try this again but later in the year to see if that helps with commitment.*
Early Years Music Workshops	***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.*
Theatre Visit (Y2 - Pantomime)	***Achieved 2024/2025*** *Visit will now be annual*