

# Music development plan summary: West Park Academy



## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	1st September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ms C Carter-Metcalf
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service (DMS)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

## Part A: Curriculum music

Our curriculum is informed by the DfE's Model Music Curriculum (March 2021). All children receive at least 1 hour of Music teaching a week. Our music curriculum is largely delivered by combination of class teachers and the specialist Music Teacher from Durham Music Service (DMS), by Kristen Peacock.

### Curriculum Structure

Through our music curriculum we focus on five key strands:

- Listening and Evaluating
- Creating Sound
- Notation
- Improvising and composing
- Performing – singing and playing

Our music curriculum is under-pinned by the inter-related dimensions of music (musicianship) which are threaded through each half-termly unit of work: pitch, duration, rhythm, pulse, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure, notation.

### Music Unit Lessons

Our teacher-taught weekly music lessons are structured around planned units that teach the core skills and knowledge of music: listening, performing, composing, notation and the history of music, underpinned by the inter-related dimensions of music. These units are based on specifically selected Kapow units of work to ensure a progressive breadth of skills, knowledge and experience is offered to every child throughout school.

Our in-house units of work are supplemented with Charanga enabling all children to experience and learn a musical instrument each year. Charanga is also used to support digital music and composition through the creation software YuStudio

### Singing

Singing forms an integral part of our music curriculum. In addition to the singing opportunities in lessons through the Kapow units, children also develop their singing skills through the preparation for and performance in our 'Musical Showcase' towards the end of the academic year. Singing skills are also taught to children in years 4, 5 and 6 by Kirsten Guest from Durham Music Service through weekly 'Rock Choir' sessions in which they learn higher level skills e.g. harmonies.

## **Instruments – Performing / Composing**

Each year, for a minimum of a half term, every class from year 2 upwards has a 30-minute/1-hour instrumental music lesson. EYFS and Year 1 have opportunities throughout each term to learn about different tuned and untuned instruments. This is integrated into each of their units of learning.

Here is a brief overview of the instruments each year group learn and explore:

**EYFS:** untuned percussion

**Year 1:** tuned and untuned percussion

**Year 2:** Glockenspiel, tuned and untuned percussion

**Year 3:** Glockenspiel & Ukulele

**Year 4:** Ukulele & Voice (Rock Choir)

**Year 5:** Ukulele & Voice (Rock Choir)

**Year 6:** Recorder & Voice (Rock Choir)

### **Tuition access:**

- Tuned/untuned percussion – in-house
- Glockenspiels – Charanga
- Ukulele – DMS
- Rock Choir – DMS
- Recorders – Charanga

## **External Music teachers**

**Kristen Guest** – Mrs Guest works with the children in years three, four and five on a Wednesday morning, teaching Ukulele. She also supports the development of vocal tuition through ‘Rock Choir’ in years four, five and six, also on a Wednesday afternoon. These sessions are part of our music curriculum offer and are free of charge.

## **Cultural and historical Awareness of Music (Listening and Appraising)**

Within the Kapow units studied in each year group, the children are given the opportunity to listen to and explore the music created by a range of musicians and composers. They are encouraged to use this experience to influence their own compositions.

Each week, there is a whole-school genre focus. Music from selected musicians and composers is played in assembly and in the classroom as listening music. The children

learn about each musician or composer's life, their musical influences, well known music by the artist/composer and the musical genre/style. The children are given the opportunity to discuss their thoughts about the music, identify differences and similarities of style and instruments used by the musicians and they are given the opportunity to explore other pieces of music by each musician or within a particular genre.

Selected genre, listened to throughout the year, includes: Pop (Traditional/Classic), Rhythm & Blues, Musicals, Classical, Gospel, Jazz, Rock, Rock and Roll, Swing, Big Band, Orchestral, Opera, Country, Latin American, Rap, Hip Hop, Folk, Soul and Mixed Genre

Background listening music is encouraged throughout the school and teachers have a bank of suggested music based on the DFE Model Music Curriculum suggestions. This music is shared with children in addition to our whole school weekly genre focus.

### **Durham Music Service**

Throughout the year West Park Academy seek opportunities offered by Durham Music Service (DMS) to allow children to perform and consolidate the skills taught in school.

### **Supporting children with special educational needs (SEND)**

West Park Academy's music curriculum is inclusive to all children. Targeted support and appropriate differentiation are given to those children who require it.

## Part B: Co-curricular music

There are many opportunities outside of our directed music curriculum that children are able to participate in.

### **Additional Instrument Tuition**

A development target for 2025-2026 is to increase the number of pupils accessing private instrument tuition.

This year, we will explore the opportunity for children in school to access private musical instrument tuition in school time from DMS peripatetic teachers.

These will be chargeable sessions.

### **Ensembles**

**Performing Arts Group** – West Park Academy's music lead, Ms Carter-Metcalf, runs our school performing arts club. We rehearse and work towards an annual performance in the summer term. The performing arts group is a new part of our curriculum offer in 25-26 and we seek to develop it as the years progress.

**School Choir** – Ms Carter-Metcalf also runs our school choir once a week. The choir is an opportunity to stretch the abilities of our talented students in singing.

These are free opportunities.

### **Further opportunities outside of lesson time**

We seek opportunities to perform within the local community and take part in events and competitions throughout the year as they arise. Annually, we enter the Mayor's Singing Competition.

## Part C: Musical experiences

### Singing

We hold two themed assemblies a week for each key stage (Y1-3 / Y4-6). Each one gives the children an opportunity to sing assigned songs for that term.

The song of the week is sung in unison by the children in assembly. Songs are timetabled around themes, seasons and celebrations, plus there is the opportunity to sing for enjoyment.

Each assembly also provides the opportunity for pupils to listen to and appreciate music from the genre of the term (cultural and historical awareness of music). They listen to this as they enter and leave the hall.

In addition to assemblies, singing is practised weekly in a whole school singing practice led by the Music Subject Lead, Ms C Carter-Metcalf.

Singing sessions focus on:

- practising familiar songs
- learning new songs
- singing position and posture
- breathing and breath control
- diction
- vocal warm ups and vocal health
- range and register
- singing in rounds, parts and harmony (age appropriate)

Singing assemblies encourage children to be 'brave' and often invite children to sing solos or in smaller groups. We also discuss the importance of a respectful audience when someone is performing. All singing sessions integrate the inter-related dimensions of music (musicianship).

Additionally, we hold a weekly whole school celebration assembly during which, the children have the opportunity to sing a motivational or celebratory popular song.

## **Performances**

Each year group has the opportunity to perform to an audience.

**Reception:** Christmas Nativity

**Year 1:** Spring Performance (Jack and the Beanstalk Musical)

**Year 2:** Musical Showcase

**Year 3:** Musical Showcase

**Year 4:** Musical Showcase

**Year 5:** Musical Showcase

**Year 6:** Musical Showcase & Leavers' Performance

**Choir:** Mayor's Singing Competition,

**Performing Arts Group:** Musical Production: Oliver with a Twist

## **Musical Showcase**

Each year group will choose a song from different music genre which they will learn throughout the year. The songs will be performed to a backing track at performance standard.

### **Genre Choices:**

- Pop (Traditional/Classic)
- Rhythm and Blues
- Musicals
- Jazz / Big Band / Swing
- Rock

These songs will then be performed at a 'showcase event' later in the year – this will be recorded in digital format and shared with parents via a limited access youtube link.

## **Music Trips or Visits**

The school choir attend the Mayor's singing competition at the Dolphin Centre, giving them the opportunity to listen to and watch other schools perform.

This is an area for development.

## **In the future**

- We will continue to seek live performance opportunities across the year as they arise: either for classes to visit performance spaces to listen to live music or for musicians to visit us.

- We will look at fundraising opportunities to increase our instrumental offer with the aim of purchasing musical instruments including a wider range of percussion instruments, another half-class set of glockenspiels and instruments to support an additional private tuition offer.
- We are looking at additional performance opportunities for years 3-5
- We are looking to offer the opportunity to run a Key Stage 1 choir.
- We are introducing a performing arts club.
- We continue to seek opportunities to perform within the community.
- We will be exploring the opportunity to offer wider instrumental tuition through DMS.
- We will continue to develop singing throughout the school

## Further information

For further information about Durham Music Service, see their website:

<https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/>

In school, the music lead is Ms C Carter-Metcalf and can be contacted at

[cmetcalf@westpark.lingfieldtrust.org.uk](mailto:cmetcalf@westpark.lingfieldtrust.org.uk)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.