

Music development plan summary: Haltwhistle Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Academic Year 2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ruth Hawkin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North

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

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Our school curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021) using the Charanga Creative Music scheme of work.

The Charanga Scheme provides “clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with ‘I Can’ statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids.”

Through this curriculum, students across all year groups have the opportunity to experience and develop skills in listening, evaluating, singing, and confidence performing on a range of instruments including voice. The curriculum builds knowledge and understanding of key musical terms, the rudiments of musical notation, and understanding of a range of music styles. Children in UKS2 also utilise IT to compose and produce music digitally both as a whole class and individually.

The Charanga Scheme approach is,

- **Curriculum-aligned:** Charanga resources are designed to cover the National Curriculum for Music fully, ensuring teachers meet its statutory requirements while offering creative freedom.
- **Comprehensive and ready-to-use:** Each unit includes fully developed Teacher Guides, Medium-Term Plans, and Lesson Plans, providing you with everything you need to deliver high-quality music lessons confidently.
- **Structured progression:** Lesson sequences support the development of listening skills, vocal and instrumental technique, improvisation, and composition, enabling clear tracking of children's progress over time.
- **Differentiation built in:** Guidance is provided for less confident learners and more advanced pupils, allowing you to tailor activities to individual needs and maintain engagement across the classroom.
- **Practical and flexible:** Each lesson includes instructions, suggested activities, and opportunities for assessment. Teachers can adapt the plans to accommodate different class sizes, abilities, or timetable constraints without compromising core learning outcomes.

- **Engaging and inspiring:** Lessons incorporate a variety of musical experiences and opportunities, including singing, movement, story-based performance, and ensemble work, while supporting cross-curricular learning, motivating children, and fostering their love of music.
- **Teacher-focused:** Resources empower teachers with tips on vocal technique, rehearsal strategies, and classroom management, supporting both subject knowledge and pedagogical confidence.
- **Reflective and assessable:** Suggested questions and assessment approaches help you monitor learning, provide feedback, and celebrate children's progress.
- **Championing technology:** Unlike conventional schemes, our industry-leading digital tools are built into every lesson to amplify every child's creative voice, from Nursery through to Year 6.
- **Celebrating expertise:** These resources reflect our innovative approach to music education, rather than merely reproducing statutory guidance, positioning schools as forward-thinking and creative in their music provision.

Year 1	Rhyming In Time Find The Beat and Dancing Dinosaurs	Let's Start Singing Name Song, Babushka & Little Angel Gets Her Wings	Music Inspired By The World Around Us In The Sea	Exploring Rhythm Patterns Hey You! and Rhythm Grids	Sound And Pictures RSNO's Yoyo and the Little Auk	Highs And Lows Friendship Song
Year 2	Questions And Answers Hello and Hey Friends	Let's Keep Singing The Wee Kirkudbright Centipede, Babushka and Littl...	Sound And Symbol 1 A Glockenspiel Adventure!	Sound And Symbol 2 More Glockenspiel Adventures!	Around The World Hands Feet Heart	The Power Of Communication It's OK (Please Just Say)
Year 3	A Shining Performance Sparkle In The Sun	Sing And Move The King Of All Polar Bears and Five Gold Rings	Music And Video Be Safe Online	You Gotta Try You Gotta Try	Music And Sound Sinfonia Cymru's Regenerate: Seasons for Change Project 1	Sound Exploration RSNO's Sounds Of The Deep
Year 4	Create And Notate You Can See It Through	Singing and Traditions The King Of All Polar Bears and Five Gold Rings	Recycling Songs Plastic	Exploring Musical Contrasts Let Your Spirit Fly	FX Sound Effects YuStudio Underwater Project	Round And Round Frere Jacques and Row Row Row
Year 5	Shaping Music My Best Friend	Unlocking Vocal Potential Panto Pandemonium, Bells Ring Out and The...	Sounds Dramatic YuStudio A Spooky Story Project	Decoding Sound and Notation Heal The Earth	Carnival Time Brazilian Samba Drumming	Music Speaks YuStudio Hip Hop Project
Year 6	Discovering Grime YuStudio Grime Project	Express, Inspire And Perform Panto Pandemonium, Bells Ring Out and The...	Music Reimagined Sinfonia Cymru's Regenerate: Seasons for Change Project 3	Musical Sketches Roll Alabama	Music Remixed YuStudio Dragon Beats Project	The Grand Finale La Bamba

The Charanga scheme is delivered to all pupils within school through a discrete whole-class music lesson. This provides opportunities for pupils to learn to play instruments such as recorders, glockenspiel and percussion instruments as well as having a focus on the 'golden-thread' of singing. These lessons take place in our dedicated music room which has substantial space and suitable acoustics to facilitate

the use of a wide range of instruments. This space is also used as a rehearsal studio when preparing school performances. For these performances, the school has a large stage area complete with high-quality lighting and sound equipment thanks to a partnership with our local community amateur dramatics company. This relationship means that we are able to offer our older students exceptional opportunities to use equipment such as radio mics and sound effects in musical performances. We hope that the availability of this equipment will also allow us to attract visiting performers such as musicians and theatre companies to the school and are always actively pursuing opportunities to do this to further enhance our offering.

Aside from their music lessons, all students have further opportunity to listen to music on a daily basis through the continuation of our 'Musical Mornings' initiative. As children enter the classroom at the beginning of the day and begin their morning they listen to a 'focus' piece of music which is supported by some visual material to encourage evaluation and appreciation, as well as the opportunity to watch performers and see their instruments. We find that music plays an essential role in setting the correct mood for learning in the classroom, and encourage the use of music as a tool to help with emotional regulation, as well as promoting a general appreciation for music.

Children also attend a weekly whole-school singing assembly. This allows the children the opportunity to rehearse and perform in a large group in a large space (the school hall), as well as allowing us to use music to support knowledge and understanding of key topics, cultural events, seasons etc.

Furthermore, each term, on rotation, one of the Key stages put on a performance for outside visitors. These have taken the form of nativity plays, pantomimes, carol concerts, harvest celebrations and musicals. When open to visitors, these are always well supported by families and the wider community and are essential for giving the children further opportunity to perform in front of a live audience.

Where possible, we collaborate with other local schools to celebrate or commemorate events with music. For example, students from a number of local schools gathered together to commemorate the anniversary of the felling of the tree at Sycamore Gap. Our KS2 students are currently looking forward to preparations for a Federation Remembrance service at Hexham Abbey in November, with singing a central part of the service.

Instrumental tuition (beyond what is covered in music lessons) is offered to all children through the opportunity to opt in to ukulele and recorder tuition. Plus, Rock instrument and singing lessons delivered by outside provider 'Rock Steady'. Parents/carers can then choose for their child to take part in small group tuition. Our goal is to increase take-up and opportunities for this. At the time of writing there are 23 children across the school taking instrumental lessons.

We are actively trying to develop musical partnerships (e.g. transition links with our local secondary schools, local performance venues and local musicians) in order to offer even more musical opportunities to our students.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

With changes in staffing, we are looking to increase extra-curricular participation by offering a year-round choir in addition to the regular and well-attended Christmas choir. Both are open to all children in KS2 and aim to perform within the community as well as in school.

Musical Tuition in ukulele and recorder is offered beyond music lessons. Clubs for choir, recorder and ukulele are offered and run when demand makes them viable.

The school aims has introduced Rock Steady Music tuition in Summer 2026. This popular format for music tuition has engaged a new group of children who hadn't previously shown interest in extra-curricular music. The scheme also provides free places for pupils and we have allocated these to children in receipt of pupil premium or children who have shown an interest / talent for music.

By collaborating with local music organisations and regional initiatives, the school seeks to enhance the range of musical activities available to students, fostering a more enriching learning environment that encourages creativity and talent development. For example, our school is currently on the waiting list to hire the County set of steel pans so that we can offer this as an extra-curricular club.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

We offer an annual theatre trip to a local theatre (most often Newcastle Theatre Royal) to watch a professional performance, of a musical or ballet. In the past these have included Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Annie, and the Wizard of Oz and excerpts from the ballet Romeo and Juliet. These experiences are often many children's first experience of being in a theatre to watch a live performance. Subsidised costing for Pupil Premium enables all pupils to access this opportunity.

Many students audition for a part in the annual Community pantomime and a number of children are involved in this each year, either as members of the chorus or dedicated dancers. As well as those involved in the production, many of our students come to watch the performances with family and friends making it a great positive link between the school and the wider community.

The school provides a variety of musical experiences throughout the academic year. These include weekly singing assemblies, where students come together to sing as a group, and seasonal performances such as Christmas shows by Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 students. Additionally, students across the school participate in pantomimes, carol concerts, harvest celebrations, and musicals, offering them multiple opportunities to develop their musical skills and perform for an

audience. When pupils perform, the whole school is invited to engage in the experience of being part of an audience.

Rocksteady music provide regular live music concerts. These events generate great excitement and enjoyment of music.

We are also hoping to develop further opportunities for children within the early years that encourage families to engage in early music experiences in addition to the music provision within the curriculum. We hope to continue to offer instrumental exploration as we provide an introduction to a range of instruments as children as part of their language development, and by inviting visiting musicians from the community into our Early Years.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

For subsequent years we need to further develop our relationship with Music Partnership North, charities and services to build more whole class tuition from visiting musicians or additional small groups and 1:1 tuition. This will allow us to introduce further ensemble band and group opportunities to build on their new found skills.

We aim to offer the opportunity for our pupils to watch more live music, including a visit to a live music venue (e.g. The Glass House International Centre for Music) to watch a professional performance.

As we continue to liaise with other local schools, musicians and organisations we aim to develop our musical offering further.