Waterton Academy Trust

Music Development Plan

Newstead Academy

2026 - 2027



watertonacademytrust.org

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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026 – 2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Becky Abernethy
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sharon Wainwright
Name of local music hub	Barnsley
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

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 music curriculum is designed to provide rich, engaging and meaningful musical experiences that support pupils' communication, emotional expression, social interaction and cognitive development. Learning is carefully sequenced across our three curriculum pathways—Explorers (pre-formal), Discoverers (semi-formal) and Adventurers (formal)—ensuring that all pupils can access and make progress in music from their individual starting points.

The curriculum focuses on listening and appraising, singing, composing and performing, providing opportunities for pupils to explore a range of musical styles, instruments and sounds.

The Music Lead develops medium-term plans, drawing on the Cornerstones curriculum and adapting learning to meet the needs of pupils across all three pathways. Planning identifies clear learning objectives, progression in musical knowledge and skills, and key vocabulary that is explicitly taught to develop pupils' oracy and communication skills. Opportunities for thematic and cross-curricular learning help pupils make meaningful connections and build on prior knowledge.

Music Interaction is also embedded within our provision, using songs, instruments and props to engage pupils in familiar, enjoyable musical experiences. These sessions support emotional expression, attention, social interaction and communication, particularly for pupils with complex needs. Opportunities for Music Interaction are incorporated into small-group and whole-class activities, ensuring that all pupils can experience enjoyment, participation and success through music.

Part B: Co-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.

There are a number of music links across the curriculum. Examples include learning to count and recite times tables in maths, learning key vocabulary and important facts in humanities and the use of music to help with regulation.

We have an established Sing and Sign School Choir, which meets and rehearses on a weekly basis. Pupils are actively involved in choosing the songs they would like to learn, supporting pupil voice and encouraging enthusiasm and engagement in music. Songs are practised regularly using a combination of singing and signing, ensuring that the choir is inclusive and

accessible to pupils with a range of communication needs. Pupils are given opportunities to perform their chosen songs at events and celebrations within school, as well as representing the school at the Trust's Waterton's Got Talent, a trust celebration, involving all of the Waterton schools across Barnsley and Wakefield. These experiences support pupils to develop their musical skills, communication, confidence and enjoyment of performing as part of a group.

Part C: Musical Events

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.

Pupils are encouraged to celebrate through singing and signing and musical experiences are planned for the academic year. These include a Christmas performance, musical performances in class, concerts and shows outside of the school such as Waterton's Got talent.

Pupils in Hive 3 take a lead on this with their class teacher. When chosen, the song (along with accompanying signs) is then shared with all classes. All pupils are encouraged to participate in their own way and performances are then recorded and edited into a final video performance.

At Christmas, pupils and their families were invited to a festive Mince Pie Mix and Mingle event, where volunteers from a local brass band performed a selection of traditional Christmas carols. This provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience live music, explore the sounds of different brass instruments and enjoy a shared musical experience with their families. The event also helped to strengthen links with the wider community, bringing pupils, families and musicians together to celebrate the festive season through music.

Our achievements are then shared with our families using the platform Tapestry.

In the Future

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

Moving forward, we aim to build on and further develop our existing music provision, ensuring that all pupils continue to access high-quality, engaging and inclusive musical experiences. We will maintain our current opportunities for singing, performing and Music Interaction, whilst strengthening our wider musical offer. This will include continuing to develop our school choir, providing opportunities for pupils to sing and perform together,

and ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to experience live music at least once a year. We will also continue to build links with local musicians and community groups, creating meaningful opportunities for pupils to experience a wider range of musical styles and instruments.

Additional training opportunities will be offered for teachers to increase their understanding of the national plan for music education

Children will enjoy a live performance again this academic year.

Further Information

The Barnsley Music Education Hub website includes information about organisations that deliver music activities for children and young people. Barnsley Music Service is the lead organisation in the hub and work alongside other organisations that are all hub partners. All of these organisations offer music activities for young musicians to develop.

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.