

Music Development Plan

Newstead Academy

2025 - 2026



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Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 – 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sharon Wainwright
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	NA
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.

The music curriculum is designed to foster well-rounded development through rich, engaging musical experiences tailored to the needs and abilities of all pupils. Grounded in cross-curricular learning and life skill development, the program supports communication, emotional expression, social interaction, and cognitive growth through active participation in music.

The curriculum is structured across developmental stages—Pre-formal, Semi-formal, and Formal (1–6)—to ensure inclusive access and progression for all pupils. It emphasises listening and appraising, singing, and creating and performing, with clear objectives and tiered vocabulary appropriate to each stage.

Through this curriculum, pupils experience a broad range of musical styles, instruments, and compositional tools, developing skills in performance, interpretation, and appreciation of music. The progression model ensures every pupil is challenged and celebrated, regardless of starting point.

In order to plan rich and meaningful music lessons, teachers use the schemes of work within the Cornerstones curriculum and adapt lesson plans so that pupils are also taught through thematic learning opportunities. Musical activities provide opportunity for Singing, Listening, Composing and Performing/Instrumental Performance.

Pupils also have access to a regular intervention programme which is personalised to their needs. Music Interaction is an approach in which music and props are used to engage children through fun, familiar experiences and song. It enables children to express their emotions and their personality through musical play whilst also developing fundamental social and communication skills. Small group and whole-class sessions are included within class timetables.

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.

Pupils have regular opportunities to perform. They take part in class assemblies, Christmas performances, singing competitions and end of year shows. Pupils also have access to learning opportunities beyond the classroom, this includes Waterton's Got Talent, a trust celebration, involving all of the Waterton schools across Barnsley and Wakefield.

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.

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 our music 'offer' will be enhanced to include the following:

- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- opportunity to enjoy a live performance (at least once a year).

Additional training opportunities will be offered for teachers to increase their understanding of the [national plan for music education](#)

Newstead will have a School Choir established by the summer term 2026, with representatives from each Hive. They choir will meet on a regular basis to practise, discuss and plan for upcoming musical events.

Children will enjoy a live performance during the summer term 2026.

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.