

Music development plan summary: The Rydal Academy

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	Mrs Jennifer Salt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Lily Peoples
Name of local music hub	Durham and Darlington Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College, Darlington

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.

All children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have a 2-hour discrete music lesson every other week taught by a music specialist. In EYFS, children are taught music as part of the continuous provision and as discrete music sessions (30 minutes per week). Children are also taught nursery rhymes and given opportunities to play untuned percussion instruments in group times throughout the year.

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, Charanga's Music Scheme is used supplemented by our own detailed planning. The Music Curriculum informs Charanga's Music Scheme. Our music curriculum enables children to understand musical concepts through a repetition-based approach to learning as we know that learning about the same musical

concept through different musical activities enables a more secure, deeper learning and mastery of musical skills.

The strands of musical learning, presented within the lesson plans and the on-screen resources, are part of a learning spiral. Over time, children develop new musical knowledge, skills and concepts, and re-visit established musical knowledge, skills and concepts. The scheme is structured so that each unit of work comprises the three strands of musical learning which correspond with the Music Curriculum.

Each lesson will always involve the following activities:

1. Understanding Music
2. Listen and Respond
3. Learn to Sing the Song
4. Perform the Song

For further detailed planning, please follow this link to the music section of our website - [The Rydal Academy](https://rydal.nalp/music/) (Rydal.nalp/music/)

In some lessons, there will be options for playing instruments, improvising, and composing. All activities are incorporated over each unit in every year group and connected as part of each performance.

Throughout each lesson, teachers are continually making dynamic assessments to re-shape the learning and to maximise progression. Our music specialist teacher makes assessment judgements after each unit based on children's attainment. These ongoing assessments are then used to make an overall, age-related attainment judgement for each child at the end of each academic year. Children will learn to play untuned percussion, boom whackers, glockenspiels and recorder (in Year 3 and Year 4) as part of the music lessons. As well as this, children will learn how to use their voices and sing together in an ensemble.

Our music specialist teacher adapts each lesson to suit the needs of the class. SEND children access the curriculum through adaptive teaching and incorporating their SEND support plan or EHCP.

Our Enhanced Learning Mentor Systems (ELMs) class follows the 'Anyone Can Play' Scheme of work. The scheme is built on a collection of original songs and pieces of music. The 'Anyone Can Play' music scheme provides a range of age-appropriate, accessible material to underpin and support students on their musical journey.

Our subject leader is a music specialist, and the subject TA is a music specialist. There are three extra-curricular music clubs each week. The music clubs are available to any child who might want to attend and consist of Music, Song and Dance (the club for our school choir) and ukulele.

We work in partnership with Durham Music Hub via Charanga. We also work with other schools within our trust through a music curriculum working group.

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.

Pupils at the Rydal Academy have access to three different extra-curricular music clubs. All the clubs are free of charge. Parents/carers sign their children up to the club by booking a place on our school app booking system. The staff running the clubs can also invite children to attend.

The pupils who choose to learn the ukulele are provided with an instrument free of charge and can keep it for the duration of the time they attend the club. Pupils are allowed to take the ukulele home with them over the holidays so they can practise and further develop the skills that they have learned.

Pupils will be given a chance to rehearse their instruments in group rooms before school and during breaktimes.

The Rydal Academy will be working with the Performance Department at Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College [QE] to further enhance the music experiences that our pupils are exposed to.

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.

Pupils from Years 1 to 6 will take part in termly performances. The performances will be free of charge. These performances will showcase the knowledge and skills that pupils have developed in their music lessons over the course of each term. The termly performances will predominantly feature singing but will also include some performances on tuned instruments. Each year group will be doing their own performance. Parents will be invited to attend the Christmas performances where pupils will sing a mixture of modern and traditional Christmas songs. Children from Nursery (3–4-year-olds) and Reception will also take part in Christmas performances.

Year 6 will be doing an end of year musical production. As part of the production pupils will audition for parts. The end of year production is free of charge for parents and carers to attend.

Any music trips that the children attend are free of charge. Children will have opportunities to visit Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College [QE] (a part of our Academy Trust) to witness music outside of our own school.

Music, Song and Dance club will attend the YoungVoices choir event at Sheffield Utilita arena. At this event, children will be singing with choirs from across the country in a mass performance.

The ukulele music tuition group will have an opportunity to showcase their learning in a performance during assembly at the end of each year.

Children are provided with opportunities to sing at the start and end of each assembly. At the beginning of the year, the children will be taught a bank of songs which they will sing at the start and end of each assembly. Listening to quality recorded live music will also be included in assemblies.

In the future

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

1. In the future, The Rydal Academy would like to provide further opportunities to link with the Performance Studies Department at QE. This will involve: -

- Working together on music projects and performances.

- Pupils from the Rydal Academy visiting the department to watch performances and to see how the students plan and prepare for a performance.

- Pupils having the opportunity to look at the technological side of performances (i.e. PA systems and management of levels to get the best sound possible).

- QE students attending The Rydal Academy to provide expertise during lessons.

2. We would also like to provide an enhanced practise space for pupils to rehearse. This would involve: -

- The purchasing of additional instruments that are not part of our core offer so pupils can explore how to play new instruments.

- A timetable for room availability.

3. The introduction of a whole school music festival with visiting musicians and music community groups. This would involve: -

- Children witnessing a wide range of different musical genres.

- Children having opportunities to have a go at different types of musical instruments and playing them in different styles.

- Children having a chance to perform to a range of different audiences.

4. The formation of a Trust Music Development Plan for NALP.

Further information

DfE Music guide for parents, carers and young people - [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people)

Durham Music Hub Local Plan - [Our mission and objectives | Durham Music Trust](#)