

Music development plan summary: The Rydal Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Jennifer Salt
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Katie Turnbull
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.

All children in Key Stages 1 and 2 have a **discrete music lesson every week**. In EYFS, children are taught music as part of the continuous provision, as well as through discrete 30-minute music sessions each week. Children are also taught nursery rhymes and are given opportunities to play untuned percussion instruments during group times throughout the year.

In Key Stages 1 and 2, the **Masters of Melody Music Scheme** is used. Masters of Melody is a progressive and comprehensive primary school music curriculum designed for Key Stages 1 and 2 (Years 1 to 6), with foundational alignment for Reception (EYFS). It fully maps to the **UK National Curriculum for Music** and the **2021 Model Music Curriculum (MMC)**, providing structured lesson plans that support both subject specialists and non-specialist classroom teachers.

The curriculum structures musical progression over time by continuously revisiting and building mastery across four core pillars:

- **Singing and Vocal Health:** Focuses on performance singing using original songs, accompanied by vocal guidance tracks and independent backing tracks.
- **Composition and Creativity:** Teaches children to create their own music, embedding digital musicianship through the use of technology.
- **Active Listening:** Exposes children to a diverse range of musical styles, historical eras and genres, such as *Decade of Disco* and *Wartime Songs*, to develop a foundational love of music.
- **Notation and Instrumental Performance:** Explores multiple forms of music notation and develops children's instrumental performance skills.

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

Throughout each unit, there are opportunities for children to play instruments, improvise and compose. These activities are incorporated into lessons across every year group and are connected to each unit's final performance.

Throughout each lesson, teachers use ongoing dynamic assessment to adapt teaching and maximise progression. Teachers make assessment judgements at the end of 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.

As part of their music lessons, children develop their skills on a range of instruments, including untuned percussion, boomwhackers, glockenspiels and chime bars. Children also develop their vocal skills and learn to sing together as part of an ensemble.

Children with SEND access the curriculum through adaptive teaching, incorporating their individual SEND Support Plan or EHCP where appropriate.

Our Enhanced Learning Mentoring Support (ELMs) class follows the Reception Scheme of Work.

We work in partnership with **Durham Music Hub**, who have visited the school to perform concerts for our pupils.

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 through our Music Academy offer. These clubs are available free of charge to any child in Key Stage 1 and 2 who wish to attend **choir (Y1-6), ukulele (Y3-6) and drums (Y1-6)** 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 Young Voices 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 some assemblies. Throughout the year, the children will be taught a range of songs which they will sing at the start and end of 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.

Further information

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

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