

Music development plan summary: Plains Farm Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	
Date this summary will be reviewed	
Name of the school music lead	Catherine Stanness
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Sunderland Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Every week, each class takes part in a one-hour music lesson using the Charanga scheme. Each half term focuses on a genre of music that the children will listen to and play instruments alongside the song. We cover a wide variety of genres such as pop, rock, reggae and Motown. Throughout the half term, students will develop their understanding of the instrument they are learning, develop their ability to match tempo and play notes accurately as well as learning how to compose and improvise their own piece of music based on the genre of focus. These lessons are adaptable to ensure all students are able to access the learning and make progress throughout the year.

Students in nursery and reception will receive weekly half-hourly music sessions using the Charanga scheme. This will develop their ability to learn songs, understand percussion and start to learn how to play instruments accurately. Within the setting,

EYFS students have access to musical instruments to explore during their own time in both the classroom setting and in the outdoor area. Music is embedded across their curriculum to support with their retention of a variety of subjects.

The music coordinator works closely with the Sunderland Music Hub, which offers training as well as a variety of opportunities for the children to take part in throughout the year, to continue to develop their love of music.

Part B: Co-curricular activities

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.

We are committed to providing a diverse musical experience to students across the curriculum by embedding music within a variety of lessons as well as within assemblies.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

Each week, students take part in a singing assembly which are delivered to enhance students musical knowledge as well as develop their singing ability. Students look forward to these assemblies and frequently make song suggestions, which supports their engagement and enthusiasm throughout the sessions. A list of songs have been developed, which will be played throughout the week during all assemblies for students to be exposed to various genres. The choir will also regularly perform for the school to showcase their learning, as well as encourage others to join.

After School Choir Club

The school choir has been established for many years and continues to attract previous members as well as new members. The students develop their singing skills through a variety of genres and have regular opportunities to showcase these talents within and outside of school. The students perform regularly for the school, within the community and take part in singing events such as the Vocal Showcase, where they can share their enjoyment for music with other schools in the local area.

Music Club

Throughout 2025/2026, we will develop a music club for students across the school to develop a wide variety of musical skills, such as singing, playing instruments and using technology to create various genres of music. The members of the club will also be music ambassadors, and will gather ideas from their classes for songs they will like to practice within the assemblies, to support engagement within these sessions.

Part C: Musical experiences

The choir visit The Sunderland Empire to watch a musical performance, which will inspire their learning back at school.

Students from Year 2 to Year 6 will attend a pantomime performance at The Sunderland Empire.

The choir also visit local supermarkets during November/December to raise money for the school through carolling. If we have spaces available, students from across the school will also be invited to take part in these singing events to encourage them to join our choir and support a passion for music. The choir take part in a vocal showcase to perform in front of other schools as well as listening to their performances.

The Year 2 class take part in Infantasia, a vocal showcase where they will perform for other schools as well as listening to their performances.

Working with the secondary school and local college, we will be arranging visits to the schools for students to further understand how music is embedded within their learning throughout their education, including watching the secondary school students perform in their yearly play, which our KS2 children attended last academic year. Additionally, we will be inviting these schools to perform for our students in school in for all classes to experience music in further education.

In the future

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

The choir will continue to be delivered weekly after school. Students from KS2 will be invited to join the choir within the first week of the autumn term with regular performances and trips throughout the year to keep students engaged. Students in the choir will also contribute towards songs suggestions and organising performances to increase engagement.

The music lead will be looking into further opportunities for small-group tuition for a wider range of instruments for all students who show an interest, including Pupil Premium and children with SEND, whilst ensuring these opportunities are financially accessible for all interested students.

Introduce further live music opportunities for the school to promote a love and enthusiasm for music, either in school or visits to venues.

Develop the dedicated music teaching space to be used for lessons to ensure this is a welcoming environment that is suitable for instrumental lessons and showcases music learning and events throughout the year.

Regular CPD to be delivered to staff, focusing on the progression of skills throughout the year as well as how students show progression across the year. CPD will also focus on the effective assessment of students throughout their lessons and identifying how to support students with developing their musical knowledge further.

Through the use of effective assessment, the music subject lead will review assessment information to identify any gaps in learning and support teachers with addressing these areas.