

# Music development plan summary: Hurworth School

The document below outlines the Music Development Plan for Hurworth School for the academic year 2024-2025. This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across the curriculum, our extra-curricular music offerings and musical experiences and our future music plans. This information is to help students, parents and carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' music education.

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Joanne Wilson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Samantha Reilly
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service (DMS)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

## 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 student in Key Stage 3 at Hurworth School receives a weekly timetabled music lesson of 1 hour which is taught in classes of mixed attainment. There is one Music teacher in the school who has had many years of experience and creates lessons to cater for and challenge all students. It is acknowledged that when students arrive at Hurworth School from the range of different primary schools, that prior experience, knowledge and skills in music can vary. Despite this, the Key Stage 3 curriculum is informed by both the national plan for music education and includes some of the features of the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021) and aims to give students as broad an experience without sacrificing the need for deep knowledge and understanding. Students are given the opportunity to learn instruments in a whole class setting, including keyboards, djembe drums and singing. The KS3 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also throughout each

topic; this allows students to broaden their skill sets as well as deepen their understanding and musical learning. Some topics are included at KS3 that are also built on in KS4, such as African music and understanding key vocabulary. [Hurworth School KS3 curriculum](#)

Our KS4 curriculum includes 5 hours of music over a fortnightly timetable. GCSE students engage with performance, composition and listening and appraising over the 2-year course, and currently follows the AQA specification. Results in this subject are regularly outstanding where students achieve above the national average. Students are encouraged to access instrumental or vocal lessons either in or out of school to run alongside this course. [AQA GCSE Music](#)

We have strong links with Durham Music Service and regularly participate in some of their joint ventures with schools, for example working with Royal Northern Sinfonia and James Redwood and performing at Darlington Hippodrome, working with singing groups such as The Sixteen and taking part in choir competitions and recently becoming Northeast Secondary School Choir of the Year 2024.

## **Part B: Extra-curricular music – Music tuition, choirs and ensembles**

As mentioned in Part A, the school has a partnership with the local music hub; Durham Music Service. As a school we give access to peripatetic lessons across a range of instruments and for voice. Through Durham Music Service we currently have teachers for upper strings, voice, brass, woodwind and drum kit. Students can play for their own enjoyment or with more academic rigour. When appropriate, students are entered for graded music exams via ABRSM or Trinity, and pupils are taught in groups suitable to their performance ability. Where needed, students can loan an instrument from the music service. Fees for lessons and instrumental hire can be found on the Durham Music Service website and are subsidised by the school [Prices | Durham Music Trust](#). Students who have Pupil Premium status and are accessing free school meals get their DMS lessons for free, as these are paid for by Darlington Borough Council.

The school also has a keyboard teacher who visits the school and works for [Musicworks](#) and a freelance guitar teacher. These lessons are not currently subsidised by school, though there have been some subsidies in the past for Pupil Premium students.

The school runs a choir with the support of DMS which runs over lunchtime once a week and is open to all students free of charge (subsidised by the school). The choir has recently won the award of Northeast Secondary School Choir of the Year 2024 and has performed at locations such as Durham Cathedral. These experiences beyond the classroom consolidate and extend learning effectively and give the students the

experience of further developing their interpersonal skills, communication and independence.

There have been drop-down days for instrumentalists to allow a variety of experiences, such as a project with James Redwood (famous conductor and composer) together with Royal Northern Sinfonia. Students composed a piece of music and performed this at Darlington Hippodrome. Some of the peripatetic teachers also collapse the individual lesson time occasionally to allow students to work on essential ensemble skills.

There are 2 practice rooms in the department, and these are available for students to further improve their practical work that begins in the classroom. This practice space (which has a drum kit and piano) is also available for students to practice individually on their instruments or together to allow for the nurture of independently formed bands.

Students can also opt in to participate in the school production, which will be 'Matilda' in 2024-25. This will be open to all students regardless of ability.

## Part C: Musical experiences

Our school groups (choir and brass group) and individual students are given the opportunity to perform throughout the school calendar. Our big event this year will be the production of Matilda in Summer 2025. We provide music for various events in school, from open evenings to achievement evenings which allows the students to have a platform to perform.

Our school choir regularly undertakes external performances and competitions as mentioned in Part B of this document.

The school regularly accepts opportunities to work with DMS and other outside agencies to be given the chance to perform with other musicians (such as Royal Northern Sinfonia and the choral group The Sixteen).

The school choir have also performed at the local nursing/care home for a Christmas celebration together with other departments in school.

The department also hosts its own transition days for Year 6 students to introduce them to the music department and to do some singing with the school choir. In 2024, this was done in conjunction with The Sixteen who were invited to come to the school to show a range of performance pieces and to allow students to access live music.

**Music calendar and plan for 2024-2025** (new events may get added as the year progresses):

Academic Year 2024-25	Performance opportunity	Students involved
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September 2024	Y6 Open Evening event	Individual performance – free event to prospective parents
November 2024	GCSE performances	Y11 students (coursework)
December 2024	Choir performance – Rockcliffe Court  Christmas concert  Awards evening	Choir – free event in conjunction with other departments in school  Choir, brass band, soloist vocal/instrumental opportunities  Individual performance – free event
March/April 2025	Easter concert/ (Rockcliffe / School)  GCSE performances	Individual performers and choir  Y11 GCSE students (coursework)
June/July 2025	School production	Drama group and choir – small ticket charge

## In the future

This is about what Hurworth School is planning for subsequent years.

We continually build on and develop our music plan each year, taking into consideration any changes in National Curriculum. The Schemes of Work are regularly reviewed and updated based on student feedback to ensure it remains relevant and challenging to all students. Our aim is to continue to provide as much inclusive practical music for as many students as possible.

We plan to celebrate and challenge our singers and instrumental students with extra performance opportunities to allow them to showcase their talents on a more regular basis, and to involve parents and carers more with this.

Another school aim is to include Music Technology at Key Stage 3 to enable students to create music using different methods.

The department is looking to increase participation at KS4 and will be looking into other qualifications and exam boards to see if there is anything more suitable for the students within the school.

Extra-curricular experiences will continue to host bi-annual musical productions, more showcasing of student's performances and GCSE compositions.

## Further information (optional)

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.