Music development plan summary: Worsborough Common Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	16/07/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	16/07/2027
Name of the school music lead	Eleanor Wright
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kate Ainley - Headteacher Rachel Dransfield -Curriculum leader
Name of local music hub	Barnsley Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Barnsley Youth Choir Arts Council Artsmark Rocksteady

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.

At WCPS, we have reviewed the guidance from the Model Music Curriculum to refine and enhance our approach to music education. Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on listening and appraising, with a bespoke playlist that our children will explore and be exposed to throughout their time at school. This approach ensures that our pupils develop a broad and deep understanding of music, fostering a lifelong appreciation and love for the subject.
Our approach to the Music curriculum ensures it is taught discretely, providing depth and rigour. Each year group receives a minimum of one hour of music weekly and is underpinned by an accelerated learning approach. Our progressive music curriculum document supports the progression of substantive content and concepts, carefully selected and well-sequenced to ensure depth and rigour over time. The key concepts, principles, and themes have been developed from the National Curriculum into a range

of progressive knowledge and skills, helping children grow and succeed in 21st-century Britain. This progressive curriculum allows for a purposeful way of teaching and learning, enabling a more meaningful and sequential approach to the scheme for music.
Our music curriculum outlines pathways for progression, enabling pupils to develop their musical knowledge across three interrelated pillars of musicianship:
'Technical' development - allowing pupils to translate their intentions into sound.
'Constructive' development - enabling understanding of how musical components come together both analytically and creatively.
'Expressive' development - focusing on the more indefinable aspects of music: quality, meaning, and creativity.
At WCPS, we have further segmented these pillars to scaffold and support pupils' development in music into six key areas:

- Singing
- Listening
- Composing
- Musicianship
- Performing
- Musical History

Our musical curriculum content supports pupils in developing these three essential pillars, which in turn support the activities of performing, composing, and listening. Consequently, the Music curriculum we offer is designed to meet the needs of all our pupils. It is rich, varied, imaginative, and ambitious, tailored to individual learners but easily adaptable for pupils with additional needs.
Our curriculum is ambitious for all pupils, including those with SEND. Curriculum leaders, our SENCO and teachers have high expectations of what SEND pupils can achieve, and the curriculum is not diluted or unnecessarily reduced for them. Each pupil is different, and what works varies for each one. Pupils' individual needs, as set out in SEND support plans, are considered, and adaptations are planned to ensure their success in all subjects.
The design of our curriculum ensures that chunks of learning are sequenced coherently, enabling all pupils, including those with SEND, to build on prior knowledge. For pupils identified with complex needs, it may be appropriate to provide a personalised curriculum based on individual needs, retaining ambition for the pupil.
Adaptations may include supporting pupils to focus on key aspects and reducing excessive or unhelpful demands on working memory. Time is also allocated to ensure pupils with SEND are pre-taught instructions and vocabulary to support their understanding.
In terms of qualifications and awards, our pupils have the opportunity to achieve various music qualifications and participate in music-related awards. These opportunities not only recognise their achievements but also motivate and inspire them to strive for excellence in their musical endeavours. Through our partnership with the Barnsley Youth Choir, Barnsley Music Education Hub and Rock steady, pupils can access opportunities, enhancing their skills and broadening their musical experiences.
In summary, our Music Curriculum is designed to provide a robust and comprehensive music education that nurtures the musical talents and interests of all our pupils. By focusing on listening and appraising and ensuring a structured and progressive approach to teaching music, we aim to develop well-rounded musicians who appreciate and engage with music on a deep and meaningful level.

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.

At WCPS, we are committed to providing a rich and diverse musical education that extends beyond the classroom and core music curriculum. As set out in our 'WCPS Promise' document, as part of our 'Civi Engagement' and 'Arts & Culture' areas, our extra-curricular music programme is designed to offer pupils numerous opportunities to sing and play music, fostering a lifelong love for the subject and enabling them to make significant progress in their musical journey.

Whole School Singing Assemblies

One of the cornerstones of our music provision is the whole school singing assemblies. These assemblies are not just a time for collective singing but also an educational experience where children learn about pitch and notation through the Kodály method. The use of Kodály hand signals is an integral part of our approach, helping pupils to visually and kinaesthetically understand musical concepts. This method supports their ability to read music and develop a strong sense of pitch, which are crucial skills for any young musician. The collective experience of singing together also builds a sense of community and shared joy in music-making.

After School Choir Club

Our after-school choir club is an ongoing, vibrant part of our music programme. The choir provides an opportunity for children to develop their vocal skills, learn to sing in harmony, and perform in front of live audiences. Notably, our choir has participated in prestigious events such as Young Voices, the Big Sing and Music for Youth at the Royal Albert Hall, giving pupils the chance to experience the thrill of performing in large venues and being part of a larger musical community. These performances not only enhance their musical skills but also build confidence and teamwork.

Instrumental Learning Opportunities

We believe in the importance of instrumental learning as part of a well-rounded music education. At WCPS, we provide whole-class ensemble teaching and small-group lessons to ensure that all pupils have the chance to learn an instrument. Additionally, we have African Drumming and a school string orchestra with small group tuition and individual tuition opportunities to cater to pupils who wish to pursue music more intensively. These sessions are tailored to the needs of each pupil, allowing for focused and personalised instruction. This one-to-one or small group setting ensures that pupils receive the attention and guidance they need to progress at their own pace and achieve their musical goals. This year children have also taken park in 'Rocksteady'

sessions and follow up performances at whole school level in which their newly developed skills and confidence are showcased.

Drama Club

To combine music with other Arts based learning, such as Drama and Art, and broaden our pupils' opportunities to be creative even further, we also have a school drama club. Our drama club participate in many events; recent events have included a Summer Showcase that celebrated the many talents across school, alongside the string orchestra and school choir. The drama club has also recently worked on an ambitious project with Year 3 pupils, leading to a successful production and musical performance of Mary Poppins to a live audience, using a local theatre as the venue.

Our extra-curricular music activities are designed to complement and enhance the core music curriculum, providing pupils with a comprehensive musical education. Through regular practice, performance opportunities, and exposure to a variety of musical styles and instruments, pupils can develop their skills and deepen their understanding of music. The structured progression from whole school singing assemblies to instrumental learning and performance opportunities ensures that pupils build a solid foundation in music and are well-prepared for further musical study.

In conclusion, WCPS extra-curricular music programme offers a wealth of opportunities for pupils to engage with music in meaningful and enjoyable ways. By providing a variety of singing and instrumental activities, we aim to nurture each child's musical potential and instil a lifelong appreciation for the art of music.

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.

At WCPS, we are committed to nurturing confident, lifelong learners who are proud of their heritage and ready to make a positive contribution to society. As part of our holistic approach to education, we provide a rich diet of experiences that nurture the whole child and offer opportunities on their journey to adulthood through our 'WCPS Promise'. A crucial component of this is our comprehensive music programme which links to 'Lifetime Experiences', 'Community Links' and 'Arts Performance', and therefore includes a variety of musical events and opportunities designed to expose students to the joys of performance, to feel inspired, and foster a deep appreciation for music.

Attending live performances is an integral part of our music curriculum. It exposes children to new crowds and environments, helping them develop a sense of belonging and build emotional intelligence. These experiences are well-planned, coherent, and progressive, ensuring that all students benefit from them. For instance, we have held whole school concert performances and workshops in our hall, providing students with

the opportunity to experience live music in a familiar setting. Additionally, the entire school has attended a pantomime performance, which not only entertains but also educates students about different forms of theatrical expression.

Our commitment to exposing students to high-quality performances extends beyond the classroom and school premises. Our string orchestra visited the Sheffield City Hall for the Hallé For Youth School Concert. Year 3 students have visited the Bradford Alhambra Theatre to watch the musical production of Mary Poppins, broadening their horizons and deepening their understanding of the performing arts. Furthermore, Year 5 students have the unique opportunity to participate in the ‘Music for Youth’ Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and visit the West End during their London residential trip. These experiences are invaluable in developing students' appreciation for the arts and enhancing their cultural literacy.

A key feature of our music programme is the structured weekly singing assembly, which involves all classes from Reception to Year 6. During these assemblies, children are taught essential vocal techniques, including warm-ups, correct posture and breathing exercises to improve vocal quality. This consistent practice not only enhances their singing abilities but also instils discipline and confidence. Our EYFS and KS1 pupils have participated in fantastic workshops led by the award winning ‘Concerteenies’. As a school, we have a strong partnership with the Barnsley Youth Choir, who regularly hold workshops for WCPS pupils both in our school and out of school. This has recently included a workshop with the Aurin choir as part of their international tour.

Our choir participates in events such as Young Voices and the Big Sing, where they perform alongside thousands of other children, creating a memorable and inspiring experience. They also perform out in our community, helping to put smiles on the faces of residents at local care homes and out in the local town. Additionally, inspired by their visit to see the Halle Orchestra at Sheffield City Hall, we host performances by our school String Orchestra, who also play a huge part in celebration events and seasonal performances, such as Christmas events and end of year performances. These performances provide students with a platform to express themselves and gain confidence in their abilities.

Seasonal performances are one of many highlights in our music programme. In the autumn term, we have an EYFS and KS1 nativity performances, which brings the school and wider community together to celebrate the festive season. Similarly, our KS2 students participate in a Carol concert, where they perform for the wider community. As a whole school, we also sing during Christingle Services. These events not only celebrate students' musical achievements but also strengthen community bonds. Our Year 6 students have the opportunity to participate in an end-of-year production, performing and singing on stage to celebrate their primary school journey.

To ensure that music education is accessible to all, we subsidise the majority of our events and live performance visits through fundraising set aside for our 'WCPS Promise'. This commitment to inclusivity ensures that every child at WCPS has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of music.

In conclusion, our comprehensive music programme at WCPS is designed to provide students with a wide range of musical experiences. From attending live performances to participating in structured singing assemblies and seasonal concerts, our students are immersed in a vibrant musical culture that nurtures their talents and fosters a lifelong love of music.

In the future

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

At WCPS, we are dedicated to continuously enhancing our music education provision to ensure that it meets the highest standards and provides enriching experiences for all our students. In the coming years, we plan to implement several key improvements in curriculum music, extra-curricular music, and musical experiences to further develop our students' musical abilities and appreciation.

Artsmark Gold Award:
Currently, we hold the Artsmark Silver Award – a creative quality standard for schools. We are now working towards achieving our next award.

Embed Implementation of Music Curriculum Front Covers:
Each year group now features tailored front covers, created alongside our music specialist, that outline the key learning objectives and substantive and disciplinary knowledge for each sequence of teaching. This will ensure that music is taught regularly and systematically across all classes. This initiative will provide a clear structure for teachers and help students understand the progression of their learning. It will also facilitate better tracking of student progress and identification of areas needing improvement.

Utilising Assessment:
The music subject leader will regularly review assessment data to pinpoint areas where potential gaps in students' learning needs to be addressed. This process will begin immediately and continue throughout the year. By identifying and addressing gaps in learning, we can tailor our teaching to meet the needs of all students, ensuring that no child is left behind.

Professional Development for Teachers:

We will continue to conduct regular CPD sessions, in collaboration with our music specialist, focusing on identified needs through learning walks, pupil and staff voice. These sessions will cover various aspects of music education, including new teaching strategies, assessment techniques, and use of technology to support music learning, evidence and assessment. Enhancing teachers' skills and confidence in delivering music education will lead to more effective teaching and better student outcomes. CPD that focuses on developing teachers as musicians will be particularly beneficial, as highlighted by OFSTED's research review.

Continue to introduce a wide range of new instruments:
Starting from the next academic year, we will gradually introduce new instruments from a wider range of instrument families and improved resources to support music teaching. This will be accompanied by appropriate training for teachers. Learning new instruments will broaden students' musical experiences and skills, fostering a greater appreciation for music.

Music of the week project:
To raise the music education profile even further and expose our children to a broader range of music from different genres, cultures and time periods, we will introduce a whole school 'Music of the Week' project. This will be facilitated by our music specialist and implemented by class teachers.

Further information

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.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Music Education Hub | Barnsley Music Education Hub | United Kingdom (barnsleymusichub.com)

Arts Award – barnsleyfusion.co.uk