

Nun Monkton Foundation Primary School

"Be curious, be brave and believe"



Music development plan summary 2025 – 26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was reviewed	August 2025
Name of the school music lead	Angela Mitchell (until 31.8.25)
Name of local music hub	North Yorkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	North Yorkshire Music Service York Minster Singing Project

At our school we value music and music-making, as set out in our Music Implementation document. During 2024 – 25 we enhanced the existing music curriculum, which had been delivered historically by the school's own staff. We achieved this by working in partnership with other organisations, to enhance the already enthusiastic and quality music teaching and learning. At our school timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour happens each week of the school year.

The School's Music Lead set up links and organisation to enable the development of even higher-quality music provision in curriculum and co-curricular music and to improve musical experiences for pupils further. This work which began 2024-25, will continue and become more outward looking (particularly with the CO-curricular musical experiences aspect) in 2025 – 26.

We proactively encourage all children to enjoy music and are very conscious of the need to adapt support, content, instruments to enable children of all needs to access the music curriculum at our school. This sometimes involves support from a person or bespoke materials or adjustments, depending on individual needs.

Part A Curriculum Music

Since Sept 2024 the school has worked with the North Yorkshire Music Service to support instrumental music teaching and learning and to access their North Yorkshire Music Scheme of work for reference.

From November 2024 all KS2 pupils have had 30 mins instrumental music tuition provided each week. This has been learning to play the violin with very high quality teaching from North Yorkshire Music Services. Children have been able to listen to high quality playing, learnt about the instrument and techniques for playing the instrument, improved their understanding of musical notation, reading of musical scores and performing. The children have become more reflective about their performances and about how to improve. They have played and listened to a range of music from different genres and times.

From November 2024 all KS2 pupils have had 30 mins singing tuition provided each week by the Singing Lead for the York Minster Schools Singing Programme. They have studied musical history, a range of genres, sung in a variety of languages, as part of this. The children's singing posture, clarity, understanding of musical phrasing and notation has all improved, along with their understanding of

singing tone, musical notation and performance skills. They have sung as a whole Key Stage ensemble (that is 16 pupils in our school), in parts, in rounds, in harmonies and in small groups or as soloists as part of this singing. We have a 'singer of the week' award presented in Collective Worship, which celebrates different aspects of musical performance or achievement.

KS1 and EYFS pupils benefit from weekly music lessons delivered and led by school staff to support musical development. Pupils learn singing techniques, broaden their range of songs (e.g. songs that can be sung in unison, action songs, songs in arts and rounds), listen to a range of music and participate in activities around pitch, rhythm, pulse and beat to support their progression of musicianship.

Staff of EYFS and KS1 pupils use opportunities throughout the week to teach music within other curriculum areas, for example to link with History, Literacy, Maths and within Forest sessions. EYFS children at our school quickly build up a wide repertoire of songs and rehearse and refine these within their learning and play each day. Singing in EYFS and Year 1 is often as part of any part of the curriculum or spontaneous (particularly as children often break into songs that they have been taught as part of their learning and play in EYFS areas). These include songs for remembering phonics, maths, days of the week, weather, science, action songs, songs about relationships and being kind, as well as songs that will improve children's range of notes and rhythm. Above all children are encouraged and supported to enjoy singing and develop a love and confidence with it, just as we promote a love of reading across our school.

The school has a range of musical instruments, pitched and unpitched to support the progression of musical skills including listening, musicianship in KS1 and composing for all pupils. These resources support creativity and progression of musical skills

Next steps

- From September 2025 staff are planning to use Charanga scheme to support their teaching of composition and musical features for EYFS and KS1
- Consider further how our computing curriculum complements music learning by integrating music technology elements, including audio production and sequencing sounds, broadening pupils' technical skills and engagement with modern musical tools.
- Further enhance the experience of composing for pupils, especially in Years 1 and 2, embedding the use of the school's musical instruments more systematically within lessons, ensuring pupils have regular, meaningful hands-on opportunities.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Our School enjoys a culture of communal singing that complements the curriculum sessions. Regular singing assemblies, theme days, opportunities to make music for school events or events such as VE day celebrations lead visitors to comment that children seem to have a song for every occasion. Using music for events such as traditional Maypole dancing at the annual Village Fete demonstrates children's excellent sense of rhythm and ability to keep to a beat. Some co-curricular music occurs for performances or for a specific event, for example learning to play handbells for a Christmas carol service or a percussion accompaniment by a small group. Where children learn an instrument outside of school, they are given opportunity to perform in school or at an event if they wish to.

We aim to provide as much musical opportunity as we can during the school day because there are real challenges of running music groups beyond our curriculum time in our very small school. As a very

small school site where we have no school hall and no MSAs (so Teaching staff and TAs do all lunch duties - and most were running after school child care until September 24), there has been no spare room or staff capacity to hold musical group activities at lunch or after school.

Next steps

- Now that KS2 children have had a year of musical tuition in school, point parents to the opportunities a bit further afield for pupils to access other opportunities for playing & performing in a music group e.g. Harrogate music centre
- Consider if an after school music club could happen from September 25 onwards as WAC will be taking place off site and that could potentially free up a small room in school for use.

Part C: Musical experiences

At our school, we encourage a culture where our pupils are given multiple opportunities to engage in enriching music experiences and to perform, thereby enjoying and extending their learning beyond the classroom.

All children are supported and encouraged to take part fully in music making and listening, around school, in lessons, in specific music lessons, in rehearsals for performances and during visits, so no child is afraid or unwilling to take part. The ethos fostered in our school means children listen and respond respectfully to music made by each other, staff or visitors. They are curious and keen to hear music from different eras, places and cultures and to give their opinions and evaluations in a reflective and sensitive manner, recognising that different people have different tastes and preferences.

Children have opportunity to sing in Collective Worship (including some worship songs but also in our weekly celebration assembly if they have learnt a particular item they want to share with the whole school. Sometimes a special gathering will be held so that for example the KS2 children can perform violin pieces to younger children or the younger children can perform music they have been practising to the older children

Children all perform during each school year at the Whole school Harvest Festival, at the Christmas Carol service, in a Christmas carol song event outside school with the local community and at an Easter service each year. Our KS2 children learn and perform songs to perform in the annual end of school year show.

Our KS2 children perform termly, doing so in York Minster for two events this year (Advent Wreath and Mothering Sunday) and in the local church in the summer term, performances which have given pupils opportunity to sing in parts, in harmony and for some to perform solos.

As well as opportunities to perform, children have weekly opportunity to listen to professional musicians including the Singing Teacher from York Minster. Our Year 2 – 6 pupils had opportunity to attend a 'King of Instruments' workshop, where they learnt about the parts and working of an organ and listened to one of the York Minster organist team playing pieces of varying volume and complexity in the local church. The whole school attended a musical show at Grand Opera House in January 2025 (which included singing from professional actors and singers from a West End Show).

Next steps

- Provide increased and wider opportunities to listen to more live music e.g. attending a concert or a group of musicians coming into school to perform, inviting a local secondary school band to perform
- Consider accessing a different singing partnership (e.g. Young Voices) when the Singing Project with York Minster comes to an end in 2026

In the future

The increased music making and performance available to KS2 pupils this year has been very positively received and we are keen to ensure this kind of opportunity carries on for subsequent year. The Singing Programme will continue into 2025 – 26, but when that ends 2026 another singing programme will need to be organised for the pupils to participate in.

Our school is fortunate to have a very supportive PTFA who help our music programme financially. It is important that subsequent year groups are able to learn to play an instrument now that they have seen how the existing KS2 children have enjoyed learning those skills.

Increasing the opportunity for children to perform to the PTFA community and with other local schools in concert will be something the school is keen to explore, as the school moves into a soft collaboration from Sept 25.

Going forward we are keen to explore how we can collaborate more with local musicians and secondary schools our pupils go onto in Year 7 to provide more live music and a wider range of genres for our pupils to hear.

Ensure that we are giving all year groups opportunity to encounter music from different traditions, composers and musicians.

Review and agree a clear assessment framework that tracks pupils' progress across the key areas of technical, constructive, and expressive musical development,