

Tanfield Lea Community Primary School

Music Development Plan Summary



Opening Doors, Enriching Lives

Head Teacher – Mark Temple
Chair of Governors – Andrew Gladstone-Heighton

Date: April 2026

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Helen Davidge
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mark Temple
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service (DMS)
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.

Context and Aims

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity.

At Tanfield Lea Community Primary School we aim to offer a high-quality music education from Early Years to Year 6 that engages and inspires pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians. We aim to increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

The Aims are:

- To excite and inspire all learners, hooking them into musical learning.
- For all teaching staff to be confident to plan and deliver high quality music lessons demonstrating excellent subject knowledge through CPD facilitated by DMS and the Music Lead.
- To provide well-structured, relevant and progressive musical learning which brings together and builds upon pupils' musical experiences in and out of school.
- To grow as musicians, developing musical interests and identities.
- To promote creativity, creative exploration, expression and imagination.
- To provide broad experiences that support musical engagement and inspire future study at higher levels, including individual tuition.
- To develop subject specific and transferable music skills, knowledge and understanding through first hand experiences of music.
- To develop a sense of personal, national and global identity through experiencing and exploring music from a wide range of genres, styles, traditions, cultures and historical periods.
- To share music making within class, school and the wider community and perform with confidence and purpose.
- To continually provide or sign post pupils to local, regional and national opportunities.
- To ensure that musical experiences and opportunities are shared via the website.
- To engender a lifelong love of music.

The school's Music plan sets out how it meets the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 and 2.

- Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice.
- A school choir or vocal ensemble.
- A school ensemble, band or group.
- Space for rehearsals and individual practice.
- A termly school performance.
- Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year.

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 which pupils can achieve.

Our school publishes its [school curriculum for music for each year group online](#).

This sets out the music lessons for each half-term for each year group within the school.

The school is committed to deliver 1 hour of music lessons a week.

Lessons taught include appropriate progression in skills from one-year group to another.

Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum.

The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

We are an inclusive school and always strive to remove barriers to learning with pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take part in lessons. Scaffolding and explicit instructions will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.

Throughout the school children regularly have the opportunity to sing in each year group. Specific instruments are percussion instruments, xylophone, ukuleles and glockenspiels, in addition to making music using iPads (Garage Band). See the music curriculum for more details.

In addition to this, the Durham Music Service deliver whole-class lessons across the school: Little Fingers from Reception to Y2, ukuleles in Year 3 and 4 and Djembe drumming in Y6.

Children are encouraged to see these whole-class lessons as a pathway to small-group DMS lessons, which then in turn lead to other County-wide orchestras (DMS Stars Band and DMS Wind Band).

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.

In addition to music lessons, children sing collectively in assemblies. These assemblies led up to performance as follows:

- Early Years – Christmas Performance
- KS1 – Harvest Festival and Nativity
- KS2 – Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service, Gala Theatre Performance.
- Year 6 – End of Year Performance

Our school has a popular active choir (Y3 – 6) which regular perform at the ecumenical and school carol services, Easter service and the Gala Theatre in Durham. There is no charge for this.

Durham Music Service offer small-group tuition for woodwind (clarinet and flute) and guitars. These children perform at the events above. Children can access graded music qualifications through this. Children have a timetabled space for this and opportunities are offered for children to rehearse at playtimes.

The school is committed to music for all and uses Pupil Premium funding to fund music tuition for disadvantaged children.

In 2025-26, one child has joined the Durham Music Service Stars Band (a beginner orchestra) who have performed across the North East.

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.

Singing regularly takes place in assemblies.

As outlined above, regular events include:

- Early Years – Christmas Performance
- KS1 – Harvest Festival and Nativity
- KS2 – Christmas Carol Service, Easter Service, Gala Theatre Performance.
- Year 6 – End of Year Performance

The school's annual talent show regularly features singing and instrumental performance.

The Gala Theatre performance is a joint venture with another Durham school and showcases singing (including in parts) and instrumental performance. There is no charge for children participating in this and the school covers the cost of buses, theatre hire and technical support.

Our Y2-6 children watch a Christmas play at the Northern Stage, Newcastle, which features live musical performances.

Our EYFS and Year 1 enjoy a watching and participating in a Christmas performance in school, performed by Bigfoot Arts Education.

As part of the school's commitment to showcasing professional music performance, the school hosts an outdoor brass jazz performance every July. Acts have come from the UK, Europe, India and America. Parents and carers are invited to this. There is no charge for this.

In the Future

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

As a school, we strive to capture our pupils' love of learning music. We are starting to see an increase in the number of pupils who are keen to participate in peripatetic music lessons. Over the coming years, we aim to continue to increase this number, particularly with our pupil premium children.

We also aim to develop the children's access to the pathway to local orchestras.

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.

[The Durham Music Service](#) is the primary musical partner for the school.

