

Curriculum Music

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Overview	- EYFS follow own curriculum (in conversation with music lead and EYFS lead) - KS1 & KS2 follow the Sing Up music scheme - Whole class teaching supplemented by Durham Music Service: - EYFS & Y1 – 1 term of Little Fingers (Autumn / Spring) - Y2 & Y3 – 1 term (Spring / Summer) of ukulele lessons - Y4 – 1 term of mini-trombone lessons, before opportunity to learn in small groups in the Summer term - See Music curriculum page for: - Music Policy - Progression of Skills Map - Long Term Plan including vocabulary 45min-1 hour a week for curriculum music in most classes - Taught by class teachers and HLTA (PPA cover) - Digital resources: Sing Up website - Physical resources: - Class set of recorders - Class set of ukulele - Class set of glockenspiels - Trolley with class set of untuned percussion - EYFS have own box of untuned percussion for use during continuous provision - Assessment – termly, following Sing Up’s snapshot assessments (1 song learnt in the Autumn term and then developed in the Spring and Summer terms) completed by class	- Music consistently being taught every week in every class (Autumn 2025) - Music being taught by class teachers in support with HLTAs (Summer 2025) - Digital resources: more use of iPads and technology for composing (Spring 2026) - Assessment (Dec 2025) - staff more confident in identifying children working towards, at and above age-related expectations - still needs embedding and staff meeting time to go over how to use the assessments - Key vocabulary and knowledge identified for retrieval and ongoing assessment (Dec 2025)
Whole Class Ensemble Tuition	- Durham Music Service: - EYFS & Y1 – 1 term of Little Fingers (Autumn / Spring) - Y2 & Y3 – 1 term (Spring / Summer) of ukulele lessons - Y4 – 1 term of mini-trombone lessons, before opportunity to learn in small groups in the Summer term - Mrs Nower (music lead) - Year 3 – ½ year recorder (provided by school) - Children in Y2&3 can provide their own ukulele/recorder if they wish	- Ensure staff are confident in teaching recorder – long term aim (3-5 years) - Recorder progression/MTP for Y3 – needs mapping and linking with Sing Up (Autumn 2025)

Finchale Primary School – Music Development Plan

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	- Children have option to continue in small group lessons with a brass instrument in summer term of Y4, Y5 and Y6 - Learning is supported and extended via a KS2 Orchestra (open to all children who learn an instrument in and out of school) - Durham Music Service 24-25 - Little Fingers £1520 - Ukulele £2116.25 - Y4 mini-trombone £1660	
Singing	- Children sing weekly as part of their music lessons and within all assemblies - Songs for assembly sourced from Out of the the Ark - Each snapshot (termly assessment) is based around a song that they learn - School song sung weekly	Consistency in staff confidence in singing in front of children – modelling (Summer 2025)
Instrumental music	- Instruments built into Sing Up curriculum and used almost every lesson, depending on unit - EYFS - untuned percussion available daily as part of continuous provision - Instruments available for classroom use - Class set of recorders - Class set of ukulele - Class set of glockenspiels - Trolley with class set of tuned and untuned percussion - All children in Y4/5/6 who learn a brass instrument take part in the DMS Stars Framework. If the peripatetic music teacher thinks it appropriate, certain children take graded exams - EYFS African Drumming as part of their Africa unit	- Not all staff making full use of instruments available to support composition/improvisation - Y5/6 children able to use their primary instrument as part of composition/improvisation – eg brass, piano, drums (Autumn 2025) - Record which children are meeting DMS Stars framework and which level (Summer 2025) - African drums – utilise more – not just EYFS (Autumn 2025)
Technology	- Interactive white boards used to support teaching – modelling of singing, notation, backing tracks etc - Class set of iPads available with Garage Band on	Make better use of Garageband/iPads for electronic music/composing & improvisation; snapshots uploaded to Shared Drive to share best practice
Opportunities to experience live music performance	At least once a year, all children to experience a high-quality live performance	Make more links with the university music department (by Summer 2026)

Finchale Primary School – Music Development Plan

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	○ 23/24 – The Secret Garden (M & M productions with live singing by the performers (whole school) - £958.80 ○ 23/24 – Durham University Chamber Orchestra (whole school) - part of their outreach project ○ 24/25 – Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment (Y3&4) - parents paid £7.30 each, school paid for 6 children £43.80 ○ 24/25 - Alice in Wonderland booked for 17.06.2025 • Children learning an instrument at home or in school are welcome to perform in assembly • Y4 class assembly (Autumn/Spring term) – ½ perform mini-trombone, ½ perform/sing demonstrating their whole class music lessons • Year 5&6 – small group brass – perform to parents/carers at end of Autumn term • Y4/5/6 – small group brass – perform to parents/carers at end of Spring term • Y2 & 3 perform to parents/carers at end of their ½ year learning ukulele including singing • Mrs Nower (music lead) – models singing and instrumental playing on a regular basis during assemblies, choir, orchestra, Y3 class music • EYFS/Y1/Y3/Y5 class assemblies – perform songs as part of the assembly • EYFS/KS1 and KS2 Christmas Productions – performed to parents/carers, with Y6 children taking on singing solos • Y6 Summer Productions with children taking on singing solos	• Staff confidence to model singing/playing instruments in class • Links to get woodwind/strings/percussion/choir professionals to perform (by Summer 2026) • More opportunities for live professional performances (by Summer 2026)

Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Music

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Overview	• KS2 Choir and Orchestra led by Mrs Nower (music lead) • Y4 (summer term) and Y5/6 have opportunity to learn a brass instrument in small groups (led by DMS) • £99 per term for two Pupil Premium children to access small-group instrumental lessons and currently £106 per term to fund Service Child tuition	• Opportunities for EYFS & KS1 • Share musician of the month with families/wider school community (by Summer 2025)

Finchale Primary School – Music Development Plan

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	- Children who learn a brass instrument in Y5 are invited to join DMS Stars Wind Band (hosted at Finchale on a Monday 4-4:45, led by DMS) - Music monitors chosen from Y6 – write a letter of application stating why they wanted to promote music at Finchale, what skills they would bring to the job - Musician of the Month (recorded music): - develop personal development - covers protected characteristics 6-year cycle - Children learn about and experience musicians from different periods in time, different musical genres, different countries and cultures Personal Development - Musician of the Month - Musician introduced by Music Lead at beginning of the month in an assembly, children then listen to different examples of their music each week as they come into assembly - Music display in hall: - Celebrate achievements of choir, orchestra, individual children - Promote musician of the month - Promote key vocabulary and inter-related dimensions (elements) of music - Music Festival (every 2 years in Summer term) – opportunity for pupils learning an instrument/sing in or outside of school to perform to the school - Choir & Orchestra also perform - Durham High School for Girls Y5 Primary Outreach Musical 2 hours of rehearsals during school time, Saturday rehearsal (10-4), Monday rehearsal 9-4) 2 performances in fully resourced drama studio at DHSfG to families (including lighting, sound, props, costumes) on Monday evening	- Musician of the month embedded across the school and in classrooms – not just assemblies (for 25-26 academic year) - Music Festival – wider school community involvement – not just perform in school – perform to parents/carers (for 25-26 academic year)

Finchale Primary School – Music Development Plan

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	○ Staffing – Saturday and Monday rehearsals, and Monday performances ○ Cost – families pay for tickets and t-shirt	
Singing	• Singing assembly x1 week – led by music lead • Staff lead singing in other assemblies • Singing in assembly accompanied by backing tracks • KS2 Choir ○ Open to all children ○ Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm in school hall ○ Led by Mrs Nower ○ Accompanied by backing tracks ○ Aim for at least 3 performance opportunities either in or outside of school each year ▪ 2023-2024 – North East Festival of Languages, PTA Christmas Fair, Durham Castle Primary Concert, DMS Big Sing: The Magic Flute ▪ 2024-2025 – Carol Singing at local care home and local authority governor conference, PTA Christmas Fair, Durham Castle Primary Concert ○ Develop musical skills by use of correct vocabulary, notation and singing in parts including harmony ○ Resources – personal collection from Mrs Nower and Sing Up ○ Annually enter Durham Music Service choir competition	• Staff confident to take over and lead choir (3-5 years) • How can we continue to develop high membership if/when new music lead (3-5 years)
Ensembles	KS2 Orchestra • Currently Y4-5 (open to Y3 in summer term) • Led by Mrs Nower (music lead) • Thursday lunchtime – 30min in Kids Club • If learn an instrument in Y5/6 encouraged by myself and brass teacher to attend • 3 parts – recorders, glockenspiels, brass • Accompanied by backing tracks • Resources: personal collection and arrangement from Mrs Nower, Twinkl, Band in a Book (Sarah Watts) • Aim to perform each term to school/parents/carers	Staff confident to take over orchestra (3-5 years)

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Tuition	Brass – small group • Y4 (summer term) and Y5/6 • Taught by Mrs Mortimer (DMS) • Tuesdays – 45 mins	

Leadership

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Governing body	Lead Governor for Music: Mrs Patrick (co-opted governor) • Very active and supportive with extra-curricular music: supports as an extra adult when needed for Choir trips • Meet annually to discuss Music (March 25)	Continue to challenge and provide feedback from Link Governor meetings
Senior Leadership Team	• Music is a high-profile subject across school and the benefits of an effective Music education is understood b school leaders • Leaders review the school curriculum and extra-curricular provision annually to ensure best practice	Develop a robust assessment system so that leaders can regularly evaluate the impact of the school's music provision (by Dec 2025)
Subject leadership	• Led by Mrs Nower • Sing Up chosen as provides high expectations for music, where singing and music skills are progressive. Also covers a diverse range of musical genres, cultures and composers • Curriculum has been adapted to meet the needs of the children and is supplemented by Durham Music Service whole class lessons (see above) • Pupil progress meetings x2 a year • Learning walks x2 a year and regular communication with visiting DMS staff • Training needs identified through learning walks and drops ins with staff ○ Coaching/mentoring provided by Mrs Nower if necessary ○ Whole staff CPD on certain areas eg composition/rhythm cards/assessment ○ Sing Up also provides CPD videos for staff to follow and use	

Budget

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Budget for Music	Sing Up subscription: £270 Musician of the Month subscription: £85	Potential to raise funds for outdoor speakers and other technology to allow for outdoor performances (Summer 2026)
Music income	The school raises funds through tickets for performances and these funds are utilised for e.g. the travel costs associated with trips, as mentioned above	

Partnerships

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Partnerships with schools	• Music lead attends termly Music Network Meetings led by Durham Music Service • Y6 attendance at Framwellgate School Durham school showcase performance annually • Partnership with Durham High School for Girls (Y5 girls outreach project)	Link with Music department at Framwellgate School (feeder comprehensive) (by Summer 2026)
Partnership or relationship with local music service or Music Education Hub	• Good relationship with Durham Music Service • Currently take advantage of 3 different services they offer • Classes and staff have taken advantage of free/low cost trips and CPD opportunities ○ Singing workshops ○ Vocal horizons (running a choir) CPD ○ Teacher choir ○ Annual choir competition • Head of Music Service (Mike Summers) has come in and worked with Mrs Nower (music lead) on developing the curriculum and did a 'mock deep dive'	Continue good relationship with Durham Music Service and utilising the variety of CPD they provide for all staff
Cultural partners for music		Keep link with Lewis Wilkinson now Mrs Whitton has retired (Summer 2025)

Accommodation and resources

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Spaces for Music	- Classroom music taught in classrooms - Y4 mini-trombone taught in hall (same time as whole class music in Y4) - Choir rehearses in the hall - Orchestra rehearses in Kids Club - Instrumental tuition in Kids Club - Outdoor spaces utilised	Dedicated music space for instrumental lessons and orchestra (5-10 years)
Resources available for Music	- Instruments and music stands currently stored in boxes/music trolley behind piano in hall - Sing Up subscription - Musician of the Month subscription - Out of the Ark subscription – assemblies and productions/class assemblies - Printed music for Choir/Orchestra (provided by Mrs Nower) - Tuned/untuned percussion instruments and trolley funded by PTA May 2023 - £912.07	Dedicated space to store instruments & resources and inclusion of music in outdoor play area for KS1/2 (5 years) Can we make more of Sing Up? – opportunity for students to have a login Choir/Orchestra music (3-5 years)

Inclusion

area	what happens now	what we would like to see
Overview	- Pupils experience music from different cultures through Musician of the Month and Sing Up curriculum (eg Y5 they learn about Nasheeds (Islamic songs)) - Children with SEN identified and appropriate support/reasonable adjustments put in place	Ensuring that the culture and backgrounds of all children are considered in the design of the curriculum, e.g. when looking at Musicians of the Month (reviewed annually)
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	Reasonable adjustments including: - Physical supports to help with holding of instruments (eg a child with cerebral palsy) – worked with DMS to create the trombone stand - Additional adult support - Clear, directed instructions - Copy and recall (additional modelling) - Awareness of additional needs but not limiting the task	

Finchale Primary School – Music Development Plan

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	• Differentiation if needed • Rhythm grids/flashcards	
Religion	• Pupils experience music from different religions & cultures through Musician of the Month and Sing Up curriculum (eg Y5 they learn about Nasheeds (Islamic songs))	Ensure that the curriculum covers music linked to religious festivals that our children celebrate (reviewed annually)
Financial hardship	• Pupil premium used to pay for hire of instruments and small group music lessons ○ £99 per term for two Pupil Premium children ○ £106 per term to fund Service Child tuition	