

Music development plan summary:

Handale Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Miss Ellen Kendall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Rio Farrier
Name of local music hub	Tees Valley Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Sing Education

This is a summary of how music education is delivered to all our pupils at Handale Primary School across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and our aims for the future within our school. 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.

Handale Primary School will work in partnership with Sing Education to deliver a whole-school music development programme that enriches the curriculum and promotes a culture of singing across the school. Through high-quality teaching, staff training and engaging workshops, Sing Education will support teachers to develop confidence and skills in delivering music, ensuring that all pupils have regular opportunities to sing, perform and experience a broad musical education.

Children with special educational needs (SEND)

The programme will be inclusive and accessible to all learners with particular consideration given to increasing participation for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Adapted teaching approaches, differentiated activities and supportive resources will ensure that every pupil can engage in musical learning at an appropriate level.

Curriculum overview

Sing Education delivers a carefully sequenced and progressive music curriculum from EYFS through to Key Stage 2. Each session lasts 35 minutes and is delivered weekly on a Monday. The curriculum ensures that pupils develop both substantive knowledge (such as pulse, rhythm, pitch and notation) and disciplinary knowledge through composing, performing, listening and responding to music. Learning builds systematically each year, moving from early musical exploration and singing skills in EYFS to reading notation, instrumental performance, composition and ensemble work in Key Stage 2, ensuring clear progression in musical understanding and musicianship.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS Focus Areas	Moving and Clapping	Recalling Patterns, Actions and Rhythms	Pitch-Matching	Rhymes, Songs and Stories	Playing and Responding	Singing, Listening and Playing Together
Nursery	Move to the Music: Stopping and Starting	Follow the Leader: Copy Me	Singing Skills 1: Find your Voice	Telling Stories Through Music	Feeling the Music	Exploring Musical Sounds
Reception	Move to the Music: Skip, Hop and Jump	Follow the Leader: Tap with Me	Singing Skills 2: Match my Voice	Rhymes, Poems and Songs Old and New	Noticing Patterns and Describing the Music	Exploring Musical Worlds
KS1 Focus Areas	Pulse	Rhythm	Pitch	Composing	Musicianship: Preparing for Ensemble Skills	Musicianship: Preparing for Reading Notation
Year 1	Exploring Pulse and Tempo 1: Feel the Beat	Exploring Rhythm 1: Playing and Copying	Exploring Pitch 1: High and Low	Creating Music 1: Sound Effects and Storytelling	Singing and Playing Skills 1: Pitch-Matching	Understanding Rhythm and Pitch (Percussion)
Year 2	Exploring Pulse and Tempo 2: Find the Strong Beat	Exploring Rhythm 2: Stick Notation	Exploring Pitch 2: Dot Notation	Creating Music 2: Musical Conversations	Singing and Playing Skills 2: Follow the Leader	Playing Rhythm and Pitch (Glockenspiel)
KS2 Focus Areas	Performing: Reading Notation - Rhythm	Performing: Reading Notation - Pitch	Performing: Instrumental Performance	Composing and Improvising	Creating and Performing	Musicianship: Singing and Listening
Year 3	Reading Notation 1: Rhythm and Tempo	Exploring Staff Notation 1: High and Low (Glockenspiel)	Ensemble Skills 1: Call & Response (Glockenspiel OR Recorder)	Composition Skills 1: Pitch, Rhythm and Structure	Exploring Musical Theatre: Forte and Piano	Becoming Musicians 1: Dynamics and Tempo
Year 4	Reading Notation 2: 2, 3 and 4 Time	Exploring Staff Notation 2: Follow the Score (Glockenspiel)	Ensemble Skills 2: Melody and Accompaniment (Glockenspiel OR Recorder)	Composition Skills 2: Sequences and Pentatonic Phrases	Exploring Classical Music 1: Legato and Staccato	Becoming Musicians 2: Major and Minor
Year 5	Reading Notation 3: Time Signatures	Developing Sight Reading Skills 1: Melodies (Glockenspiel)	Pop Music 1: Arrangements and Improvisation (Glockenspiel OR Ukulele)	Creating Music for Film and TV: Character, Atmosphere and Environment	Exploring Classical Music 2: Ensemble Performance	Becoming Musicians 3: Chords and Triads
Year 6	Reading Notation 4: Rhythm Ensemble	Developing Sight Reading Skills 2: Note Names and Durations (Glockenspiel)	Pop Music 2: Chords and Bass Lines (Glockenspiel OR Ukulele)	Composition Project 1: Improvisation, Composition and Notation	Composition Project 2: Notation, Expression and Performance	Singing with Style

Singing

By embedding singing into daily school life and creating inclusive performance opportunities for all year groups, the partnership will enhance pupils' creativity, confidence, communication skills and wellbeing while supporting the school's commitment to an inclusive rich and balanced curriculum.

The whole school participates in a 30-minute singing assembly every Monday. These sessions are led by facilitators from Sing Education and provide pupils with opportunities to engage in vocal warm-up exercises, learn new songs and take part in performances that incorporate Makaton alongside singing. Pupils are recognised for their participation and effort through the 'Star Singer' reward system. These assemblies contribute positively to the development of pupils' confidence, self-esteem and enjoyment of music, with many pupils demonstrating increasing enthusiasm and engagement in musical activities.

Instruments

Pupils will also have opportunities to learn and play instruments including ukulele, glockenspiel and recorder, helping them to develop practical musical skills, rhythm and ensemble playing.

Part B: Co-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.

After-school clubs

Handale Primary School will provide opportunities for pupils to further develop their musical interests through enrichment activities including a musical theatre after school club and a school choir. The musical theatre club will give pupils the chance to explore singing, acting and performance while building confidence, creativity and teamwork through rehearsals and performances.

School choir

The school choir will offer regular opportunities for pupils to sing together, develop vocal skills and perform within the school and wider community. Through links with St Leonard's Church, pupils will have opportunities to perform in community settings which will strengthen community connections and give children valuable, real performance experiences. These opportunities will help foster a love of music and performance while supporting pupils' confidence, wellbeing and sense of belonging.

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.

Handale Primary School will provide regular opportunities for pupils to develop confidence and enjoyment in singing and performance through a range of school events. Children will take part in weekly assemblies, class assemblies as well as many other opportunities throughout the year. Some examples are given below:

Autumn Term:

EYFS – Reception children perform to the school and their parents with a nativity performance.

KS1 – Children perform a scripted Nativity performance

KS2- Christmas scripted performances

Year 6 – Pupils participate in a Remembrance assembly for the whole school community, performing for parents, carers, and members of the wider community, including the local mayor and councillors. This event provides an opportunity for pupils to contribute to an important community commemoration.

All children attend St Leonard’s Church for a Christmas celebration event, giving them opportunities to perform in front of their peers, families and the wider school community. These experiences will help pupils build confidence, teamwork and a sense of achievement while celebrating their learning.

Spring Term

As part of our Easter celebrations, the whole school perform at St Leonard’s Church as part of the Easter service.

Summer Term

Children across the whole school will be given the chance to perform in our annual ‘Handale’s Got Talent’ show.

Year 6 – Pupils will perform a scripted ‘Leaver’s assembly’ and perform songs to their parents and invited guests from the community.

Music trips and Visits

As part of building their cultural capital, all pupils attend a local pantomime each Christmas season.

Local artists such as ‘The Satburn Smugglers’ visit school and the whole school take part in workshops which songs (sea shanties) are learnt and performed.

In the future

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

We will continue to seek live performance opportunities across the year as they arise, either for the children to visit or to invite musicians into school.

KS2 - Children within the school choir will have the opportunity to attend and take part in the Young Voices event January 2027, allowing them to perform as part of a large choir and experience the excitement of singing alongside thousands of other children in a professional venue.

The music lead and head teacher are actively seeking opportunities for pupils to participate further in opportunities to learn to play an instrument. Opportunities to learn

and play a wider range of musical instruments are also included within the plan to broaden pupils' performance skills and deepen their musical understanding. Due to the demographics Handale Primary School is situated, this needs to be a funded opportunity.

These opportunities will help foster a love of music and performance while creating memorable shared experiences for pupils.

Taught music lessons in school

Through continued professional development supported by Sing Education, teachers at Handale Primary School will develop the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to deliver engaging and high-quality music lessons. Working alongside specialist practitioners will enable staff to strengthen their teaching practice and gain practical strategies for leading singing and musical activities within the classroom. As staff confidence and expertise grow, music lessons will be extended to one hour in length allowing pupils more time to explore musical skills creativity and performance.

This approach will help ensure that music is taught consistently across the school while building sustainable staff capacity and providing pupils with exciting, meaningful musical learning experiences.

Further information

For further information about Sing Education, see their website:

<https://www.singeducation.co.uk/>

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.