Music development plan summary: Nyland School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2027
Name of the school music lead	Donna Taylor
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Swindon Music Service
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.

Nyland School is a Special School for Primary-Aged pupils with a primary need of Social, emotional and mental health difficulties. We aim to build an ethos of emotional awareness and understanding, known as emotional quotient (EQ), which facilitates the outcome of nurturing, valued, and productive members of communities and society. This is supported by creating an environment that promotes a feeling of belonging, of being connected to others and of 'relatedness'. Both our academic and emotional curriculum are underpinned by our 6 overarching EQ themes, designed to support motivation, engagement and thinking in order to promote learning and progress.



Part A: Curriculum music

Intent

At Nyland School, we believe that all children should have the opportunity to enjoy and develop their musical awareness, regardless of additional need. We aim to provide a fully inclusive, long-term provision that is sustained, rehearsed and nurtured carefully through effective personal interaction and collaboration, trust and time. We are committed to ensuring that children understand the value and importance of music and can transfer their musical skills knowledge and experiences into their wider community. As a school we intend to develop every child's self-confidence and social development that will support them in their future, and as such we believe that Music offers all children an opportunity to express their creativity and inspire self-confidence through practical experiences leading to various musical performances and activities. Through the carefully thought out planning and high-quality lesson delivery at Nyland, children can achieve and develop academically, mentally and physically.

Implementation

The National Curriculum is the starting point of our curriculum design. It has been used to drive our curriculum design, in order to ensure the aims of the National Curriculum are met, and it has been used to inform the choices we have made about the content that we teach. Across the school, children have weekly group music lessons delivered thorough a combination of music specialists from Swindon Music Service and other professional agencies. Specialists from the Music Service are utilised as they provide vital subject knowledge, musical experiences, road shows and teaching of specialised musical instruments. All pupils are encouraged to participate in class music lessons and as such strategy support in the form of additional adult support, ear defenders or smaller group tuition are available. Children have the opportunity to experience a variety of instruments throughout their time at Nyland including: keyboard, recorder, drums, singing, guitar, ukulele, djembe, as well as opportunities to develop composition skills using GarageBand. It is our intention that over the course of the academic year, students will experience at least two of these instruments.

Impact

Our intended impact is that by the time our pupils leave our school, they will have developed:

- Their own opinions of different music genres and how they are composed and performed by listening and analysing different music types
- To have challenged themselves to create and perform different genres of music
- Develop skills in order to acquire, apply and transfer their knowledge across different musical instruments and genres
- An appreciation for music and how it makes us feel and how it represents different cultures and other parts of the world

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Weekly 1:1 music tuition is available in our therapy centre for all pupils at Nyland school. These sessions take place during the school day and are timetabled for 8-10 weeks per pupil. We provide this service free to any child that shows a keen interest, regardless of pupil premium eligibility. During private tuition, children will have access to a variety of instruments including: keyboard, recorder, drums, singing, guitar, ukulele, djembe. Over the course of the year, pupils will be given the opportunity to perform alongside various music roadshows provided by Swindon Music Service. These opportunities arise three times a year in the form of a rock and pop roadshow, a percussion road show and a wind road show. During this time, the whole school come together to celebrate a love of music and demonstrate skills they have learnt.

Part C: Musical experiences

Swindon Music Service provide Nyland School with three music road shows per year, which enable our pupils to experience a live performance in a safe and familiar setting. All pupils are encouraged to join the musicians in the school hall. However, we recognise the different needs of many of our pupils, thus ear defenders, additional adult support or listening from a quieter room are all available.

In the future

It is the intention of the music lead to:

- Plan additional opportunities for children to engage in musical events (e.g. school choir, performances and attendance at events such as ‘Young Voices’)
- To invite and provide more opportunities for children to listen to and watch live music (e.g. visiting musicians, performances inside and outside of school)

Further information (optional)

- Our Local Music Hub is: Swindon Music Service
- 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.