



Whytrig Middle School - Music Development Plan



Music Development Overview

Academic Year: 2024 - 2025

Date Published: 20.7.24

Date to be Reviewed: 10.7.25

Name of Music Lead: Mrs Sarah Kelly

Name of School Leadership Team responsible for Music: Mrs Helen Campbell

Name of Local Music Hub: Music Partnership North Northumberland

Part A: Curriculum Music

In Whytrig Middle School (WMS), all Year 5 students receive 1 hour instrument based, structured music lesson per week for the duration of 1 term. The curriculum focuses on the 4 main key areas, singing, listening, composing and performing and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum.

The curriculum is designed to meld substantive knowledge and disciplinary skills seamlessly to allow students to ultimately compose and perform their own ensemble. By consolidating and building on skills previously learned and introducing new skills in a fun and engaging way, children continuously make progress, enabling them to reach their full potential.

In music lessons, students refine their listening skills while appraising a wide range of music genres as well as studying musical eras and the history of music. Children learn to appreciate the elements of music – dynamics, tempo, time signature, the structure of music, and consider how music can affect the emotions of the audience. In time, students apply their knowledge of musical dynamics, structure and notation, to the creation of their own compositions.

Singing is a fundamental part of music lessons. Students learn the importance of posture, breathing, pronunciation and facial expression while continually developing their dynamic range. Students enjoy learning songs from a range of genres and performing them solo or as an ensemble.

WMS has a wealth of musical instruments, which are utilised to their full potential in lesson time. Students develop skills in both tuned (keyboard, recorder, glockenspiel and violin), and un-tuned (samba drums and a range of percussion) instruments. Musical theory is taught alongside instrument tuition allowing students to gain an understanding of initially graphic notation then progress to staff notation on the staff.



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Part B: Co-curricular

Students in Key Stage 2 experience 1 hour of music tuition from a specialist music teacher for at least 1 term. The tuition focuses on developing skills on one specific instrument (Violin). Music tuition is delivered by specialist music teachers in conjunction with the North Northumberland Music Hub. In addition, one to one or small group tuition (including singing, drums, guitar and keyboard skills) is available to students, who show a keen interest in progressing their musical skills beyond the classroom. These additional lessons are delivered within the school day by 'Side By Side Arts', a Northumberland based Music and performing arts company. In Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 private tuition/small group tuition is paid for by parents and subsidised by WMS.

WMS offers extra-curricular clubs dedicated to music and performing arts in conjunction with Astley High School. Students can develop skills in musical theatre, singing, dancing and acting as well as becoming part of the stage crew.

Being attached to Astley High School (ACHS), WMS has access to a wealth of specialised practice rooms, spaces to perform and specialist resources at our disposal. All spaces and resources can be booked in advance to ensure all students have space to rehearse individually or in groups.

Part C: Musical Experiences

WMS students are involved in a range of musical experiences. All students perform to each other, within classes, year groups and across different year groups during several events throughout the year. Small scale performances such as these occur during lesson time and assembly time where each class showcases their new skills.

Students are invited to experience live music performances, showcased by the Key Stage 4 students in ACHS as they prepare for their GCSE performance. Being members of the audience enables students in WMS to gain a deeper understanding of the music skills and appreciation for music.

One of the most popular musical live experiences offered in WMS is the annual visit to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. Students thoroughly enjoy the experience of the professional live theatre production and look forward to the visit every year. Previous performances have included Grease and Annie. Theatre visits are paid for by parents.

Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 students also have the opportunity to become involved in live drama workshops based on the works of Shakespeare. Students participate in intensive, drama workshops covering 6 consecutive days delivered by 'As Creatives' theatre company. The academic year of 2023-2024 workshops focused on Macbeth. The experience culminated in a live performance, held in Alnwick Castle in which the students form both the audience and the cast. The Shakespeare workshops are a fantastic experience involving numerous schools from across the North East of England. The experience is free for all students and is 100% subsidised by WMS.



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The Future of Music

In the future, we would like to incorporate Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 singing assemblies in addition to half termly whole school singing assemblies. Singing enables students to express themselves and their personality, to gain confidence, improve oracy skills and work collaboratively as a team. Students will hone their skills taught in music lessons, and increase their understanding and skills including singing in a round, harmonising, singing ensembles, syncopation, and understanding the power of dynamics. These skills cannot truly be appreciated until students' voices are melded with hundreds of other voices in the assembly hall. A range of singing, styles, dynamics, genre and skills will be transferred from the classroom to the assembly.

The provision to offer more extracurricular clubs is also a focus for the coming years. WMS aims to broaden the choices offered to include, choir, samba drums, keyboard, musical theatre and a range of dance styles. Students should also be able to participate in various performances such as talent shows and recitals throughout the year.

As WMS moves into the new building in September 2025, facilities and opportunities for music provision will flourish. We aim to hold parent recitals, during which each class will showcase their skills and progression in singing, composing and performing at least once per term for all classes. In addition to this, music events to showcase skills learned through extracurricular clubs will take place in the run up to Christmas and Easter.

In time WMS aims to create a choir involving students from all year groups. Our aim is to share the love of music with the community by singing for people living in care homes, at community events and for the local feeder first schools. We also aim to become involved in the annual national 'Festival of languages' and the 'Sing up' festivals representing the Seaton Valley Federation.

WMS will continue to purchase a greater range of instruments (whole class sets) and offer more instrument tuition dedicated to developing skills in a specific instrument. Furthermore, we aim to enhance the opportunities for students to listen to live music and performances by organising theatre productions and musicians to work with our students, run workshops and perform for them at various stages throughout the school year.