



Whytrig Middle School - Music Development Plan



Music Development Overview

Academic Year: 2026 - 2027

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Date to be Reviewed: Summer 2027

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), students in years 5-8 experience 1 hour of specific timetabled music lessons per week. All pupils study a range of musical experiences over the course of the year, including musical theatre, drumming, keyboards and a range of percussion instruments. 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. WMS fully includes all SEND pupils in music lessons, including those with physical disabilities, hearing impairments, or sensory needs. This is achieved through the use of adapted equipment, specialised instruments, headphones, and audio adapters, alongside the availability of ear defenders and small group areas to support focus and manage sensory overwhelm.

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.

WMS has a wealth of musical instruments, which are utilised to their full potential in lesson time. Students develop skills in both tuned (keyboard and glockenspiel) and untuned (samba drums, Djembe 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 stave.



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Part B: Co-curricular

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 during the school day by 'Side By Side Arts', a Northumberland-based music and performing arts company. In Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, one-to-one and small group tuition is paid for privately but at a reduced rate.

WMS offers extra-curricular clubs dedicated to music and performing arts in conjunction with Seaton Valley High School. Students can develop skills in musical theatre, singing, dancing and acting as well as becoming part of the stage crew. All extracurricular clubs are open to all pupils, held on school premises and are free of charge.

WMS offers a weekly club 'Samba Band'. The club has been sponsored by the Lakes and Dales Co-op, who have provided financial assistance towards instruments and uniforms for the band. The band have performed at several events in the local area, such as 'Party in the Park' organised by Seaton Valley Council.

WMS offers a weekly performing arts club, which offers pupils the opportunity to develop skills in singing, dancing and acting, and members work towards a performance for parents and carers.

Academic year 2026-2027 sees the start of our school choir, which will be run after school in conjunction with Seaton Valley High School.

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 SVHS 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.

At WMS we offer several opportunities for pupils to be audience members for live musical performances. Visits include our annual trip to the Theatre Royal to watch musical shows such as Grease and Annie. The whole school attends an annual Christmas pantomime at The Exchange, North Shields. We also provided the opportunity for 30 pupils to attend a professional ballet performance at Dance City. Theatre visits are paid for by parents; the school subsidises attendance for Pupil Premium pupils and ensures proportional representation for Pupil Premium pupils.

WMS held a musical performance recital at the end of last academic year, where members of the performance club showcased their singing and performing skills. This is an annual event. We also have a Christmas performance planned this year in December alongside Seaton Valley High School.



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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. We also aspire to develop music showcases for each year group at the end of each term, where pupils showcase the skills they have learned by performing a musical piece.

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 and keyboard clubs. Students should also be able to participate in various performances such as talent shows and recitals throughout the year.

In the long term, we also aim to hold more parent recitals, during which each class will showcase their skills and progression in singing, composing and performing at least once a year for all year groups. In addition to this, music events to showcase skills learned through extracurricular clubs will take place in the run-up to Christmas and Easter.

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.