

Music development plan summary: St Margaret's C of E Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Kate Rose
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	n/a
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Independent peripatetic guitar and ukulele teacher

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.

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.

At St Margaret's C of E Primary School, music is a valued and integral part of the curriculum, delivered primarily through the Sing Up Music Scheme, which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, Model Music Curriculum, and EYFS statutory guidance. Sing Up Music supports a creative and active musical approach to lessons, connecting singing and playing, composing and improvising, listening and appraising. Where necessary, we make careful adaptations to ensure the curriculum is accessible to all learners. These adjustments are informed by ongoing monitoring, assessment, and, where applicable, individual support plans and EHCPs. An overview of the units taught in each year group can be found on our school website at <https://www.st-margarets.durham.sch.uk/curriculum/overview>

In EYFS and Year 1, children enjoy weekly music lessons led by the Music Coordinator. In Y2-Y6, music is taught weekly by class teachers and instrumental teachers from Durham Music Service (Y2) and an independent provider (Y3-5). Lessons are 30 and 45 minutes long in EYFS and Y1 and 1 hour in Y2-6.

Instrumental learning is a key feature of the school's music provision. All Year 2 pupils participate in the 'Little Fingers' Violin Programme for one term. This is delivered by Durham Music Service, with weekly lessons in groups of no more than 20. At the end of their term, children perform for parents, showcasing their progress. In Years 3 to 5, pupils receive whole-class ukulele tuition for one term, led by an independent provider. Across the school, children regularly use a wide range of instruments—including untuned percussion, chime bars, glockenspiels, xylophones, and keyboards—guided by the Sing Up scheme to support musical exploration and development.

Part B: Extra-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.

At St Margaret's we are proud of our thriving extra-curricular music scene. The Junior Choir, comprising around 60 boys and girls from Years 4-6, rehearses weekly after school. They perform in our Christmas, Easter and end of term services, as well as in a concert for parents and carers in the summer term. They also participate in events such as the Durham Music Service Choir Competition at Ushaw College, the St John's Church Eco Festival, and have sung at Durham Cathedral many times. In Summer 2025, the choir took part in "The Big Sing" alongside other local primary schools, raising money for Christian Aid.

The Junior Orchestra, with around 25 members, rehearses weekly during lunchtimes and includes a full range of orchestral instruments, guitars, and recorders. They perform for parents at Christmas and in Summer, where Year 6 pupils also have the opportunity to showcase solos, duets, and small group performances.

Woodwind, string (upper and lower) and brass lessons are provided in KS2 by Durham Music Service. Children can borrow their instruments through Durham Music Service and, if children reach the required standards, can be entered into graded exams. Guitar lessons are provided by an independent provider. Lessons are paid for by parents, or can be funded by Pupil Premium provision for children to whom this funding applies. Children taking lessons through Durham Music Service have the opportunity to join a range of ensembles outside of school. Information about lessons and ensembles provided by Durham Music Service can be found at <https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/>

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.

All KS1 children participate in a weekly 20-minute singing practice, singing primarily Christian worship songs accompanied by piano, with some opportunities for rounds and part-singing. Singing is also embedded daily in Collective Worship across the school. In KS2, children engage in seasonal singing practices for events such as Harvest, Easter, Christmas, and end-of-year services. All children in school perform songs in these services throughout the year.

At Christmas time, our EYFS and Y1 children perform and sing in their Nativity plays and Y2 lead the school in a Christingle Service. All these performances involve singing a number of songs, including solos and small groups. Year 2 pupils also visit a local nursing home at this time of year to sing, fostering community connections through music.

Each year, our year 2 and 4 children have the opportunity to take part in a Dance Festival, held at the Gala Theatre. Our performances are always quite the spectacle, with dancing, singing, acting and amazing costumes!

Our Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to shine in their end of year performance as well as alongside other local schools in the leavers service in Durham Cathedral.

In March 2025, our entire orchestra, plus other instrumentalists from within school had the aspirational experience of a visit to The Glasshouse in Gateshead to see Northern Symphonia play in their 'Ten Pieces' performance.

An annual highlight of our year is a visit from a local brass band who put on a highly entertaining performance on our school field, weather permitting!

In the future

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

- Establish recorder groups in Y2 and throughout KS2
- Allow children learning whole class ukulele to have the opportunity to perform for an audience
- Ensure the continuation of our successful orchestra following staff changes
- Create opportunities for instrumentalists to perform throughout the year - e.g. on entry/exit to Collective Worship
- Continue to create opportunities for children to experience live performances by visiting musicians
- Develop retrieval resources for staff to use throughout the school, focusing on elements such as musical language and notation