

Music

Policy

Acre Rigg Infant School

Last reviewed in	September 2025
Next review due	September 2026



Every child Every day Every way Experiencing success

Music Policy

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. A high-quality music education should engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement. As pupils progress, they should develop a critical engagement with music, allowing them to compose, and to listen with discrimination to the best in the musical canon.

Aims

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all children:

- perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Subject Content in the Early Years

Children should be taught to:

- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and - when appropriate - try to move in time with the music.
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.
- Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.

Subject Content at Key Stage 1

Children should be taught to:

- Use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
- Play tuned and untuned instruments musically.
- Listen with concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
- Experiment with, create, select and combine sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Planning and Coverage Across the School

The skills, language and knowledge needed to access music start within the Early Years Foundation Stage. Children accessing 2 Year-Old provision and Nursery work within this curriculum, where musical experiences are embedded throughout the 7 areas of learning. High-quality musical activities are planned each half-term, based on an overarching topic, where the foundations of appreciation and understanding of music are fostered. Children are provided with experiences to share and create music using different instruments, sing familiar and new songs and rhymes and form the basis of early musical learning. Children have daily access to a music area, as set out in the teacher's Continuous Provision Plan. In our school, this includes an indoor performance area and an outdoor area containing musical instruments.

In Reception, children continue to develop their musical understanding within the Early Years Foundation Stage. High-quality, weekly lessons are planned, utilising the Charanga Model Music Curriculum, where children are provided with opportunities to build on their musical skills and knowledge. Children also have access to indoor and outdoor music areas.

In Key Stage 1, lessons are planned following our own scheme of learning which has been created with regard to the National Curriculum. The scheme utilises key aspects of Charanga's Model Music Curriculum, alongside additional musical activities and teaching, in order to foster a love of music and provide solid foundations for children to build on as they progress in their education. Weekly music lessons of 1 hour are taught. Children will

have access to a wide variety of musical instruments throughout the year, with a key focus on learning the glockenspiel and the ocarina. All children in Key Stage 1 will also take part in a weekly singing practice assembly.

Key musical vocabulary is taught and embedded in all lessons, as set out in our school's music progression document. Each lesson also begins with 2 key questions, revisiting children's previous learning, in order to ensure children retain key learning and vocabulary.

In addition to weekly lessons, all children will also have access to specialised musical teaching from Durham Music Service for a half-term within the year. Children will also be given the opportunity to perform to a wider audience throughout their time in school, during concerts for example, where they can showcase their learning.

Children are provided with the opportunity to listen to a range of music for pleasure, covering various genres, and are encouraged to appraise each piece.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Music will be assessed at the end of the school year and will take into account children's learning and experiences throughout the whole year.

Teachers are required to upload video recordings of music carried out within their classes where appropriate. Videos/photos of concerts and class assemblies should also be uploaded to the music folder as evidence.

Right Respecting

Children have the right to an education which helps to use and develop their talents. Music is a subject which embraces individuality and personal expression and encourages children to develop confidence to be themselves. Children have the right to learn about different things and share what they think. Music allows children to learn about and experiment with different types of music, instruments and movement and talk about their learning and preferences. In addition to this children are given the opportunity to learn about the work of musicians from around the world.

The Role of the Music Coordinator.

The Music coordinator monitors planning and the delivery of units by collecting regular evidence from teachers. The coordinator will support staff as necessary and will aim to upskill staff if this is requested by arranging appropriate courses.

Key Aims for the Subject.

- All teachers deliver lessons following our school's scheme, incorporating units from Charanga. This will ensure that children are provided with experiences that enable them to learn new in a progressive way.
- Children will enjoy singing at a variety of times during the school day (simple songs and rhymes, partnership songs and hymns) and Key Stage 1 will attend a weekly singing practise assembly.
- Children will develop their musical vocabulary.
- Children will learn to play key musical instruments, including the glockenspiel and the ocarina.

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