



Music Development Plan Summary: North Ridge Community School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rosie Buckley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Jade Soler Alcaraz
Name of local music hub	Doncaster Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	DARTS (Doncaster Arts) Sing, Sign, Train Blanket Fort Club

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.

North Ridge Community School, is a special day school for pupils aged 3-19 years with severe learning difficulties. At North Ridge, we have timetabled music lessons in Key Stages 1-4 as well as music embedded across all areas of the curriculum. Pupils access a planned music lesson once a week, every other half term. Please see our long term plans [here](#). The curriculum is informed by and adapted from the [National Curriculum](#) and the [Model Music Curriculum](#) (March 2021).

Our music curriculum was designed from the idea that everyone benefits from developing skills so that they are able to participate and enjoy self-expression. This is particularly enriching for students with SEN and who are less able to communicate through neurotypical means. Self-expression also builds sense of wellbeing. More able students will also develop their critical and social skills when they take part in group and peer assessment activities.

The music curriculum is made up of 3 transferable skills; 'developing music awareness', 'exploring and cooperating' and 'to perform'. Each transferable skill has 3 steps with a range of core concepts which are the goals pupils should reach to show they are meeting the expectations of the curriculum.

Throughout school, pupils are given a range of opportunities to experience and perform at live events using an assortment of musical instruments. Pupils in all key stages have the opportunity to attend a Key Stage sing and sign choir. Our choir is invited to perform at local events and festivals throughout the year.

At North Ridge we work closely with darts (Doncaster Arts) to enhance our music provision, whereby professionals deliver bespoke whole class and 1-1 music sessions.

Part B: Co-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 North Ridge we are fortunate to have additional opportunities for the children to develop their love of music and performance skills.

Pupils in all Key Stages have the opportunity to attend a Makaton sing and sign choir lunch time club. These run for 45 minutes a week and are free to join. They are run by our Makaton tutor in collaboration with a communication specialist purchased through our Pupil Premium grant. It is a perfect opportunity for pupils to practise their signing and enjoy making music together. These sessions aim to stimulate and develop pupil's natural curiosity in music through singing together and playing instruments such as glockenspiels and percussion. These activities promote musicianship, ensemble skills and teamwork, and boost confidence, as well as developing singing and instrumental skills. The children take part with confidence and enthusiasm. Our Secondary choir is invited to perform at various local events and festivals throughout the year.

The school has a long-established and positive partnership with darts (Doncaster Arts) who provide peripatetic music teachers to the school as part of the 'All Aboard Music' project. This is a programme of creative opportunities designed for children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities. These teachers deliver additional creative workshops across various year groups within school.

Music is also integrated throughout our daily routine to support the needs of our pupils, such as through phonic songs, warm up activities, circle time and for wellbeing. Pupils also have access to outdoor musical equipment which they can explore during break times.

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.

At North Ridge we utilise strong links with our local music service “darts” to encourage pupils to progress to performing in ensembles. For many years, at North Ridge, we have taken part in ‘Sing and Sign’. This is a fantastic massed singing event where pupils sing the original songs that they have created in school as well as their favourite pop hits that they have been rehearsing – all accompanied by a live rock band. We use Makaton throughout our development of this event so that all pupils can take part in the performance, whatever their level of ability or vocabulary. There is something incredibly special about seeing a whole room full of children, teachers and parents all using Makaton signing together whilst singing loud enough to raise the roof. There is always a wonderful atmosphere at this fully inclusive event and we look forward to attending every year.

Our Secondary choir is invited to perform at various local events and festivals throughout the year. One being the Don Valley Festival where we enter in the classification of inclusive music making. The festival encourages creative growth while fostering a strong sense of community. It serves as an inspiring space for young people from Doncaster and the surrounding areas to express themselves and be celebrated for their talents within the dynamic worlds of the arts.

Children in the Secondary and 6th Form departments have the opportunity to go the local theatre and watch the Christmas Panto.

The Secondary Choir perform to their peers and family members during our annual Christmas Concert which has a singing and signing focus. They also perform at the local shopping centre every December to sing and sign a variety of Christmas carols to raise funds for pupil resources in school.

Parents and carers are fully supportive of music making and we have a good turnout at concerts and external musical events.

Every pupil in school has the opportunity to watch a pantomime in school performed by an external company “M & M Theatrical Productions”. These fun, colourful and dynamic productions actively encourage audience participation, expertly combining the tradition of theatre pantomime with up to date and age appropriate humour, music and themes.

In the future

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

In the new year we have been invited to work collaboratively with other schools in the trust with the 'Blanket Fort Club' on a 2-year programme. The programme will engage pupils in school time and will include workshops, residencies, mini creative projects all delivered responsively to the interests of the pupils. There will also be an afterschool offer, a multimedia arts club, with a focus on further developing immersive productions, performances and showcases, festivals, cinema nights etc. Following evaluation of year 1 engagement, Blanket Fort Club will work to grow the programme, collaborating with local arts organisation partners (including Sheffield Theatres and Cast, Site Gallery and Grimm &Co) to support the delivery of some of this engagement, including shadowing opportunities and further public performances.

Year 1 (With 8 schools) Term 1: Workshops, sessions and mini projects on areas of the arts highlighted as being of interest. This could include performance techniques and script work, theatre and costume set design, sound design and composition, puppet making, playwriting, filmmaking, physical theatre and dance and lots more. Term 2: Performance showcases, extended projects and programmes, cinema nights, arts festivals and Arts and Crafts markets. Term 3: Full sensory immersive production (with live performance, full set and costume etc), arts exhibitions and digital experiences. Year 2 (With all Nexus schools) Term 1: Workshops, sessions and mini projects on areas of the arts highlighted as being of interest. Shadowing opportunities and assisting roles. Term 2: Performance showcases, extended projects and programmes, cinema nights, arts festivals and Arts and Crafts markets. Term 3: Full sensory immersive production (with live performance in a public venue which potentially tours, full set and costume etc), arts exhibitions and collaborative digital experiences.

We are working on developing a new music curriculum that will be based on 'Sounds of Intent' which is an inclusive framework of musical engagement. Sounds of Intent is a model of musical development that sets out how we all engage with music, from children in the early years to those with profound learning difficulties who are still learning to process sound. Sounds of Intent is not specific to a particular style or genre of music; it is meant for music teachers, therapists, community musicians, carers, relatives and friends wherever they are, to help them: understand how children, young people and adults engage with music in different ways, differentiate what they do according to people's varying musical abilities, interests, preferences and needs and gauge the impact of their work. This framework will allow us to build an inclusive curriculum for our pupils where we can assess and identify small steps of progress. Sounds of Intent can also be used to gain a qualification through Trinity Music Awards which is something we can explore in the future for our pupils.

We will develop the CPD of our staff through observations of sessions delivered by darts as they work based on the Sounds of Intent model. This will allow all staff to become more confident with delivering music for our pupils.

We also plan to introduce singing back into our assemblies for pupils to enjoy together and explore the idea of having a “song of the week” to enhance our pupils’ awareness of music and the various genres available.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education 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: [Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK](#)

Link to our local music hub: [Doncaster Music Hub - Doncaster Community Arts](#)

Link to Doncaster’s creative health charity – the largest participatory arts organisation in the UK: [darts - Doncaster's participatory arts charity. We create art with people in Doncaster to improve life, learning & health](#)