

Music development plan summary: Ellington Primary School 2026/27

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Richardson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kevin Hodgson
Name of local music hub	MPN
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	RockSteady

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.

Music is one of the performing arts that has the most impact and influence on our daily lives and provides an outlet for creative expression in every sphere of society.

At Ellington Primary School, we recognise the importance and value of music and aim to reflect this in our curriculum. Our music curriculum is underpinned by our curriculum drivers:

Aspirations

We constantly strive to raise aspirations through our music teaching. Participating in high quality music teaching can help children realise their creative potential, and their ability in music is not held back in any way if they feel less confident in more traditionally 'academic' subjects. All children have a chance to shine when demonstrating musical skill, and the fact that we provide whole class tuition in musical instruments free-of-charge to the pupils means that musical development is not linked with economic standing and is open to all.

Wider World

Exploring and discussing music is a hugely accessible way to discover a wealth of information about different countries and cultures around the world, as well as giving us an insight into historical and culture changes over time. Each of our units of work involves

listening to and appraising music in various genres, and by the time they leave year six, pupils will have been exposed to a huge variety of musical traditions. All of this aims to broaden the children's horizons and give them an insight into the wider world, developing tolerance and encouraging respectful sharing of views and opinions.

Independent Thinking

Through the music curriculum, children develop transferable skills such as team-working, leadership, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and presentation and performance skills. These skills are vital to children's development as learners and as independent thinkers. They also have a wider application in their general lives outside and beyond school, where we hope that pupils from Ellington show confidence in themselves and high levels of independence as they move through the school.

Part A: Curriculum music

[Information on Ellington Primary School's Curriculum for Music](#) is published on the school's website and is informed by the [Model Music Curriculum \(March 2021\)](#). This document includes how the school is supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Singing

Singing is integral to life at Ellington Primary School and is woven throughout the academic year. Children take part in whole school singing sessions where they are encouraged to sing as a large group, listening to one another and gradually building up a bank of melodies that they feel familiar with over the time that they are at school. This helps to lay the foundations from the youngest year groups in how to sing in tune and with other people and understand the basics of pulse and pitch. Through singing, children also develop language skills and supports knowledge in other subject areas. Children love to share their singing with the wider community through whole school celebrations such as Harvest Festival or our Christmas Carol Concerts. Children also frequently sing within their own classes, as part of music lessons, other curriculum lessons or when preparing plays and other performances.

Class music lessons

The music curriculum is delivered by our dedicated class teachers in every year group in school. This either occurs as a dedicated weekly lesson, or through 'music days' where classes have the opportunity to work on a project across a whole day, building up their understanding and confidence in performing.

Our curriculum is centred around the Model Music Curriculum and the National Curriculum, and draws on the resources provided by the Kapow scheme of work. In

each lesson, pupils will actively participate in musical activities drawn from a range of styles and traditions, developing their musical skills and their understanding of how music works. Lessons incorporate a range of teaching strategies from independent tasks, paired and group work as well as improvisation and teacher-led performances. Lessons are 'hands-on' and incorporate movement and dance elements as well as making cross curricular links with other areas of learning.

Differentiated guidance is available for every lesson to ensure that lessons can be accessed by all pupils and opportunities to stretch pupils' learning are available when required. Knowledge organisers for each unit support pupils in building a foundation of factual knowledge by encouraging recall of key facts and vocabulary.

EYFS music is taught discretely, with a sense of pitch, pulse, internalisation of sounds and participation skills being taught mainly through singing activities as part of the daily routine. Percussion instruments, their sounds and identification are also introduced by teachers during Reception, as well as joining in with singing assembly as the year progresses.

In addition to curriculum lessons and in order to ensure a rich musical experience to help children to be aware of the history of music, this year we are beginning to introduce the concept of "36 pieces of music to know before you leave Ellington." On a half termly basis, class teachers will introduce a piece of music to their class which they will actively listen to and explore together with their class, diving into the history and context of each piece of music. As recommended by the Model Music Curriculum, these pieces span a wide variety of different musical genres and originate in different cultures, and we hope that by the time they leave us at year 6, our current year 1 children will have a hugely improved breadth of knowledge of the wider world and history of music through this listening programme.

Our school is well resourced with a range of instruments being used in each year group. In KS1 an increasing variety of classroom percussion instruments are introduced, including the introduction of pitched percussion. In KS2, children's use of tuned percussion is extended to further develop composition and notation skill, as well as developing more complex rhythms in untuned percussion. Music Technology is accessed through chrome books and iPads.

Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

This year, our year 4 children will have an additional weekly ukulele lesson as a group for three half terms over the year, in addition to the music lessons that they take part in in line with the other classes in the school. This fantastic opportunity gives them approximately 18 weeks' worth of instrument tuition free of charge and allows them to apply all of the understanding of music that they have built up during Early Years and Key Stage 1 in a practical, visible way. They can then continue this learning in the

summer term of year 4 as well as in year 5 and 6 by taking part in a weekly ukulele club to extend their learning.

External Music Teaching

Children can also sign up for Rocksteady instrument tuition, where they specialise in one instrument (vocals, keyboard, drums, guitar or bass) and receive weekly tuition in a small group, to learn how to practise and perform together as a band.

How do we support pupils with SEND within the music curriculum?

We take care to ensure that all children have full access to the music curriculum, by building a curriculum that is accessible to all, through clear sharing of key vocabulary and careful scaffolding of activities where appropriate. The naturally collaborative nature of musical learning means that confidence can be built together and children are incredibly encouraging of one another when participating in musical activities.

Teachers are skilled at adapting resources to ensure that all children can be included and make progress.

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.

Outside of the Music Curriculum , pupils have the opportunity to join

- KS2 choir
- KS2 Ukulele club

These after school clubs are inclusive, low cost ensembles, available to all pupils in the relevant year groups and led by specialist music staff. The choir have various opportunities to perform, and in previous years we have taken part in the Northumberland Schools Christmas Choir Competition, as well as performing to local community groups and our school families.

In previous years, children have been given the opportunity to develop skills in brass instruments via Music Partnership North's whole class cornet tuition and weekly extra-curricular mini-band, both of which were free of charge to pupils. While we are not continuing with this provision this year, we will be encouraging children who particularly thrived when learning brass instruments to consider joining the Bedlington Community & Youth Brass Band, which is supported by MPN, and available to pupils free of charge and making use of free instrument hire, allowing them to further develop their skills.

This year, we are beginning to offer RockSteady Music School, which is open to all pupils. Parents pay for weekly sessions, but pupils in receipt of pupil premium funding may be subsidised by school. Pupils who enrol in RockSteady work towards musical qualifications from Trinity Music School.

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.

We encourage pupils to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build their confidence and musical development. We believe that, as part of providing a high-quality musical education, pupils should be provided the opportunity to be inspired by other musicians in a wide range of musical genres. We have links with the Pearl of Africa choir from Uganda, who come into school annually to perform for the whole school and they also invite each class to take part in smaller workshops in singing and drumming, giving them an amazing opportunity to discover one facet of African music. We also have theatre groups visiting school through the year, one of which completes a singing workshop with the children so that they learn the songs in the production, allowing them to fully participate in the final show.

Children often sing during assemblies, and take part in whole school singing sessions at specific times in the year, leading to whole school performance of seasonal songs. There are regular opportunities to sing as part of shows and concerts as the children go through Ellington Primary School. Children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 take part in Christmas Nativity performances each year. In year 3 and 4, children get the opportunities to work towards and perform a play in the Spring time every two years, and there is a leavers' performance every year in year 6.

Children are encouraged to take part in performances at the end of their music units of work, which often culminate in developing a collaborative performance as a class. These are shared with other pupils at school or with parents. The Key Stage 2 choir has multiple opportunities to perform to others, both in and out of the school, and parents are invited into school on a termly basis to see the progress that their children are making in musical instrument tuition.

In the future

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

During the next 2-3 years, we aim to:

- Increase live performance experience opportunities, including visiting performance venues and workshops into school.
- Develop the children's breadth of understanding through active listening by way of our "36 Pieces" initiative, giving them a much greater grasp of the history, culture and huge diversity within the world of musical composition by the time pupils leave our school.
- Develop children's skills and confidence in musical instruments via whole class Ukulele tuition in year 4 and the Rocksteady ensemble tuition.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [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.

Our local music hub is [Music Partnership North](#).