

Music development plan summary: Athelstan Primary School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	15 th September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rob McGrath
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lisa Watson
Name of local music hub	Sheffield Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Music School, Peripatetic Music 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 Athelstan Primary School, we have weekly timetabled music lessons in all year groups from year 1 to 6. We use the Charanga Music Scheme for our lessons which is aligned to the National Curriculum for Music and covers the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. The scheme provides progression in knowledge, skills and understanding across the different musical elements.

In addition to the Charanga scheme, we also have a 'Whole School Music Vocabulary' list with specific musical vocabulary for each year group in Key Stages 1 and 2. These vocabulary lists link to the Charanga scheme, but also have some additional vocabulary, with the aim of giving the children a good foundation of musical terminology to use in lessons and to aid their learning in music.

We also have eight overarching concepts which are covered throughout the whole school. They are pitch, duration and tempo, dynamics, texture, structure, timbre, pulse and rhythm and notation. These are essentially the elements of music.

Each year group has an N2K (Need to Know) knowledge organiser in music for every Charanga unit/half term. These have on them the year vocabulary plus an overview of what will be learnt that half term. Each N2K also has a link to specific concepts that are

mostly relevant in that unit. The N2Ks are shared with children and parents at the start of the half term.

The children have regular opportunities to listen to music and to sing in lessons. We also have a large number of glockenspiels for each year group to enable the children to access a tuned instrument to play specific notes, to practise, compose and perform within lessons.

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 Athelstan, we have various opportunities for children to develop their music skills. Children sing regularly in assemblies, with enthusiasm and confidence.

We have a peripatetic music teacher who teaches piano to key stage 2 children. A ukulele after-school club is run at different stages throughout the year for year 4, 5 and 6 children and a choir for key stage 2 runs all year.

Each year our school choir joins thousands of other children and takes part in Young Voices at the Sheffield Arena – a wonderful experience for all involved.

We also have children across all key stages who take part in a 'Rocksteady' band. This provides the children with an experience of learning and playing a musical instrument with others, in a band. There are currently five bands that run with children from years 2 to 6. The Rocksteady bands also perform for their parents and peers at the end of each term.

The year 1 nativity provides singing and performance at Christmas time and the Reception children sing for their parents in their Christmas showcase.

The choir and piano students do a Christmas concert for parents and peers as well as an end of year performance.

We also have a peripatetic teacher who runs weekly 'music therapy' groups for some of our children.

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.

Music is played in our school entrance area all day, creating a relaxing, welcoming and friendly environment and increasing enjoyment and exposure to music for all who visit.

The school productions and performances are highlights in our school year. The children are rightly proud of their accomplishments when performing for their parents and their

peers. Lots of singing in classes, assemblies, choir and music student performances, reception Christmas singing and year 1 nativity all culminate in the year 6 end of year production. Last year, it was performed to parents at the Montgomery Theatre in Sheffield.

In the future

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

In the subsequent years to come, we aim to continue to build on the confidence of staff by providing CPD. We hope to provide more opportunities to experience musical performances, both to watch and be a part of. We continually aim to increase the profile of music throughout the school and hope to continue providing accessible music opportunities for the children.