

# Music development plan summary: Federation of Mowden Schools

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn 2025
Name of the school music lead	Claire McCabe
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Headteacher
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Royal Signals (Northern) Band Crescendo Junior Choir Magical Music for Minis (Christina Jackson Music) Tardis Education

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.

Online, our school music curriculum shows that we focus on the four key areas of music learning:

- ✓ Performance
- ✓ Composing
- ✓ Appraising
- ✓ Knowledge and Understanding

The full details of our music curriculum can be found at:

<https://mowden.nalp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/curriculum-intent-2024.pdf>

which sets out our aims and also the subject's termly content.

Our musical journey begins in EYFS where children are introduced to songs and rhymes as part of their learning. Through musical games and stories, children learn to clap, sing and use untuned percussion instruments to create a strong foundation in using sound in a fun and engaging way. Reception have the opportunity to hear live instruments in sessions with Magical Music for Mini's on a termly basis. Listening to Brass, Ukulele and Percussion Instruments.

In Year 1 and Year 2 musical skills are learnt through singing games and rhymes and developing children's confidence in using tuned and untuned percussion instruments. Charanga (online music platform) is used to deliver music sessions. Both Schools have a Sing Up subscription also.

In KS2 music continues to build on learning in small, incremental steps. Pupils develop their recorder playing (using 'Blown Away Recorder') with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression. Listening develops aural memory and children develop and understanding of the history of music, spotting links between them and seeing the history of music develop. This is complemented by the Charanga platform. In Year 4 specifically, children are taught by specialist teachers from Durham Music Service to play brass instruments and are given the opportunity to perform regularly for friends and family to showcase their learning. These programmes introduce pupils to instrumental learning in a fun and inclusive way, carefully designed to develop pupils' confidence and progress in music, whilst also enhancing their personal and educational development as a whole.

Our music partnership with Durham Music Service provides guidance, resources and the direct brass instrument teaching in Year 4. DMS is also contracted to provide individual and group tuition in brass and string instruments. Other whole class instrument teaching includes chime bars in KS1 and recorders throughout KS2. Our

curriculum is supplemented by the Charanga resource and this guides singing as well as instrument teaching.

## 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.

Children are sign-posted to Durham Music Service's additional tuition and ensemble opportunities in Darlington. In recent years children have then performed at regional events e.g. the Sage Music Centre, Gateshead. For children eligible for free school meals, all tuition is offered free of charge. Instrument loans, primarily brass and strings, are organised by DMS.

One of our extra-curricular school choirs is led by an external specialist and the cost of this is met by our music budget. Children then have the opportunity to sing in the wider community choir 'Crescendo Community Choir', for example at their annual 'Summer Spectacular' concert.

## 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.

### Singing

Mowden enjoys singing!

- Weekly singing assemblies following a structured arrangement of songs, led keenly by specialist and non-specialists.
- Weekly extra-curricular choir, run by Crescendo Junior Choir. They perform a termly concert to parents and to peers in school assemblies.
- Regular pop-up choir opportunities throughout the school year:
  - Accompanying the Royal Signals Band at Darlington Proms in the Park (annually, July).
  - Competing in the Mayor's Darlington Primary Schools Song Contest, twice winners since 2019 (annually, March).
  - Carol singing e.g. Wilton House.
- All Year groups perform concerts and productions at Christmas.
- Each class incorporates singing in its class assembly to parents.
- Mowden Fest, each July, where all children perform for each other.

- Leavers' events for Year 2 and Year 6 involve in-house and external production/musician expertise. Year 6 children perform their magnificent final piece in a town centre theatre.
- All of the above is cost-free to parents.

### **Instrument**

- Year 4 children and all other children who receive additional instrument tuition perform for peers and parents at Christmas and July.
- Children perform their instrument pieces to parents in their class assembly.

## **In the future**

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

Our future development includes identifying opportunities for children to attend/experience external concerts and performances. They do experience the work of their peers, both in school and at local events and they do experience some ensemble performances from Durham Museum Service. However, we recognise a need to formalise and expand our children's exposure to performances by experts and professional musicians.