



**Mowden**

Infant & Junior Schools

**Music  
Development  
Plan**

# Music Development Plan

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	Autumn 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Autumn 2026
Name of the school music lead	Claire McCabe
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Lexi Wilkinson 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

## Vision and Intent

At Mowden Infant and Junior Schools, we believe that music is a vital part of every child's education. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils:

- develop a love of music and performance
- gain confidence as musicians and performers
- experience a broad and diverse range of musical styles
- understand music as a cultural and historical art form
- have equitable access to high-quality musical opportunities

Our provision aligns with the National Plan for Music Education, ensuring all pupils sing, play instruments, create music, and experience live performance.

## Part A: Curriculum music

### Curriculum Structure

Our curriculum is built around four key strands:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening and Appraising
- Musical Knowledge and Understanding

Progression is carefully sequenced from EYFS to Year 6, enabling pupils to build skills incrementally.

# Music Development Plan

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Children begin their musical journey through:

- singing songs and rhymes
- musical storytelling and games
- exploring sound using untuned percussion

They develop:

- pulse and rhythm awareness
- listening skills
- early performance confidence

Children also experience live instrumental sessions through *Magical Music for Minis*, broadening their exposure to different instruments.

## Key Stage 1

Pupils develop:

- confidence in singing
- basic instrumental skills (tuned and untuned percussion)
- an understanding of pulse, rhythm, and pitch

Delivery is supported through:

- Charanga
- Sing Up

Learning is practical, inclusive, and play-based, ensuring strong engagement.

## Key Stage 2

Pupils build on prior knowledge through:

- whole-class instrumental teaching (recorders and brass)
- increasing technical control, fluency, and expression
- developing aural memory and listening skills
- understanding music in historical and cultural contexts

## Year 4 Brass Programme

Delivered by specialists from Durham Music Service, this provides:

- first access to instrumental tuition
- ensemble experience
- regular performance opportunities

## Curriculum Enrichment and Support

- Charanga supports sequencing and progression

# Music Development Plan

- Durham Music Service provides:
  - specialist teaching
  - instrumental tuition (individual and group)
  - instrument loans

## Strengths

- Strong progression from EYFS to KS2
- Inclusive access to instrumental learning
- Specialist teaching in Year 4
- High emphasis on singing

## Next Steps (Curriculum)

- Further refine assessment for progression
- Map knowledge progression more explicitly
- Increase opportunities for composition using technology

## Part B: Co-curricular music

We provide a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom to support musical development.

### Opportunities Available

- School choir (led by specialist)
- Crescendo Community Choir links
- Instrumental tuition via Durham Music Service
- Regional performance opportunities (e.g. Sage Gateshead)

### Inclusion

- Free tuition for pupils eligible for free school meals
- Instrument loans available

## Strengths

- Strong uptake in choir and instrumental learning
- Clear pathways for progression beyond the classroom
- Financial barriers reduced

## Next Steps (Co-Curricular)

- Increase participation across all pupil groups
- Develop additional ensembles (e.g. recorder group, KS2 band)
- Track pupil progression more systematically

# Music Development Plan

## Part C: Musical experiences

Music is embedded across school life.

### Singing Culture

- Weekly singing assemblies
- Termly choir performances
- Regular informal “pop-up” choir opportunities

### Performance Opportunities

- Darlington Proms in the Park
- Mayor’s Song Contest (multiple wins)
- Christmas Productions
- Spring Productions
- Mowden Fest (whole-school performance event)
- Year 2 end of year performance
- Year 6 leavers’ theatre production

### Instrumental Performance

- Regular performances for parents and peers
- Class assemblies featuring music

### Strengths

- Strong culture of performance
- High pupil engagement
- Wide range of authentic performance opportunities

### Next Steps (Experiences)

- Formalise access to live professional music
- Plan at least one external concert experience per key stage per year
- Develop partnerships with professional musicians and venues

## Future Development Priorities

- 1. Increase exposure to live music**
  - Visits to concerts and performances
  - In-school workshops with professional musicians
- 2. Strengthen progression and assessment**
  - Develop clear progression maps
  - Introduce consistent assessment strategies
- 3. Broaden musical experiences**
  - Introduce music technology and digital composition
  - Expand ensemble opportunities
- 4. Ensure equity and inclusion**

# Music Development Plan



- Monitor participation across groups
- Target underrepresented pupils

## Impact

Through our music provision, pupils:

- develop confidence and creativity
- perform with increasing skill and expression
- understand music from different cultures and traditions
- engage enthusiastically in musical opportunities

Music is a central part of school life at Mowden, enriching both the curriculum and wider experiences of all pupils.