



Music Development Plan: Summary Unstone Schools Federation 2025/26

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Teresa Sutton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	North East Derbyshire

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 Unstone Schools Federation, all year groups (reception- year 6) have weekly music lessons. Teachers use a scheme supplied by Kapow which supports the delivery of high-quality music lessons. We offer a comprehensive music education for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils. A dedicated timetabled music lesson takes place weekly for at least 40 minutes, following the Kapow Primary curriculum. Our music program of study focuses on developing children into confident and versatile musicians. Through a carefully sequenced approach, children acquire the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to excel as performers, composers, and critical listeners. Our curriculum takes pupils on a musical journey, exploring a rich tapestry of music from diverse cultures and historical periods. Our scheme of work fulfils the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum (2014). The National Curriculum for Music aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians.
- Learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence.
- Understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

We explore music through the inter-related dimensions of music: performing, listening, composing, the history of music. We focus on developing the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to become confident performers, composers, and listeners.

Children will develop the musical skills of singing, playing tuned and un-tuned instruments, improvising and composing music, and listening and responding to music.

How the Subject is taught

Music is taught using the Kapow scheme of learning from Reception to year 6. Kapow is a progressive program that enables pupils to reflect and build on their musical knowledge and skill.

Nursery sing simple rhymes and songs, and phonics activities, which link to the Early Years Framework.



EYFS take part in a 10-week programme called Musical Gems. This is a 10-week programme provided by Derbyshire Music Education Hub. This is a programme developed specifically for Early Years settings, using rhymes, songs, instruments and movement.

Year 5 and 6 are taught Music through the Classroom Instrumental Learning Programme. The fully inclusive programmes give children the opportunity to learn an instrument in their classroom environment, developing confidence and self-esteem whilst supporting curriculum learning – supported by the National Plan for Music Education and the Model Music Curriculum.

Classroom Instrumental Learning

Classroom Instrumental learning consists of:

- **Musicianship and instrumental skills**
Key musical concepts such as pulse, rhythm, tempo, pitch and dynamics are introduced to children through songs, rhythm games and learning to play the instruments together.
- **Specialist teaching staff**
All programmes are delivered by a specialist music teacher and where available, supported by a specialist practitioner.
- **Confidence and self-esteem**
Pupils are taught within a classroom setting, encouraging the growth of self-confidence as they learn alongside each other and their teachers. Performances are arranged to give parents the opportunity to share in children's successes.
- **Skills progression**
Schools are provided with bespoke skills progression and planning documents.
- **Continued learning**
Pupils are given the opportunity to continue their instrumental learning after the programme has ended by starting instrumental lessons.

Music lessons are taught weekly across the federation and last for 40-45 minutes.

All pupils are involved in a singing assembly weekly. During these sessions, children learn to sing songs from a range of genres, and practise singing in parts.

SEND

The proportion of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across the federation is significantly higher than the national average. We remove barriers to learning for pupils with SEND. Adopting a positive and proactive approach will ensure that children with SEND are able to express themselves and take an active part in lessons. Explicit instructions and scaffolding will enable all pupils to achieve and succeed in music.



Part B Extra Curricular and Enrichment

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.

We have a school choir who rehearse at lunchtime.

During the course of the year, pupils in Key Stage 2 also have the opportunity to perform with our school choir or as part of the Young Voices Choir performing at the Sheffield Arena as part of a choir of thousands.

All our children are sign-posted towards out-of-school ensembles and choirs run for their age group by North-East Derbyshire Music Hub and invited to attend open days.

Children take part in weekly singing assemblies.

Eight pupils have enthusiastically taken up the opportunity to learn the cello, benefiting from high-quality tuition provided by a peripatetic music teacher.

Part C Musical Events

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.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 participate in a minimum of two clarinet concerts annually, providing an opportunity to showcase their developing skills to parents and carers. They perform on their instruments, engage in vocal activities incorporating body percussion, and participate in singing rounds—often with a student assuming the role of conductor.

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 have the opportunity to perform alongside the Hallé Orchestra at prestigious venues such as Sheffield Arena and Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. This initiative allows them to experience both performing with and listening to a live orchestra, while gaining valuable insight into performing in a professional concert setting.

At Christmas time, all pupils across the school take part in festive performances that celebrate creativity and community. Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 present a traditional nativity play to parents and carers at the local church, fostering a strong connection between school and community. Key Stage 2 pupils perform a pantomime within the school, with shows held during and after school hours for families to enjoy.

Throughout the academic year, pupils participate in performances held at the church to mark the conclusion of each term—Christmas, Easter, and Summer. Children in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Key Stage 1 perform both collaboratively and individually. They present group songs as a combined unit and also showcase pieces from each group separately.

Similarly, Key Stage 2 pupils perform together as a whole key stage and then present individual performances by year groups—Years 3 and 4, followed by Years 5 and 6. Additionally, Years 3 and 4 often enhance their performances by playing handbells, while Years 5 and 6 contribute with clarinet pieces, adding a rich instrumental dimension to the events. Parents and carers are invited to these events.

In December each year, the pantomime visits the school where children from Nursery to Year 6 experience a spectacular professional production of music and drama.



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Year 6 perform a leavers' assembly to their families in July. This involves learning to sing many songs by memory and performing them with confidence and expression.

Across all key stages, children have opportunities to experience live musical theatre performances.

Key stage 2 pupils took part in Razzamataz Theatre Schools taster session. The theatre school ignites confidence and creativity through singing, dancing, and acting. Several children have subsequently enrolled in the school to attend evening classes.

Parents and carers actively support music making, through support at events and through home learning

In the Future

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

Continue to participate in Young Voices and Play with the Hallé Orchestra

Musical engagement with feeder secondary schools– look for opportunities to work with feeder secondary school for transition.

Plan CPD for classroom teachers to increase confidence in singing in the classroom and delivery.

Provide further fresh experiences in the form of concerts, visitors, trips, choir etc for all pupils.