

# Music development plan summary: St Mary's Blackhill

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jennifer Bell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
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.

## 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.

What we do now:	What we intend to develop:
<p>St Mary's follows the Charanga Original Music Scheme to deliver high-quality music education across the school. Each year group covers six topics throughout the academic year, ensuring a structured and progressive approach to musical learning. The scheme is designed to build skills within individual topics, across year groups, and throughout the entire primary curriculum.</p> <p>All children receive a 40-minute music lesson each week. In addition, pupils in Years 4, 5, and 6 benefit from specialist ukulele tuition</p>	<p><b>Timetabling:</b> Ensure that the school timetable supports consistent, high-quality music teaching in every year group.</p> <p><b>Instrumental Provision:</b> Establish a clear and structured timetable for instrumental tuition across all relevant year groups.</p> <p><b>Staff Confidence:</b> Conduct a staff survey to assess confidence levels in</p>

<p>provided by a member of the Durham Music Service. These sessions take place weekly for 45 minutes and run for one term per class.</p> <p>Within the EYFS English curriculum, there is an expectation that children in Reception learn and confidently recall a range of nursery rhymes by heart, supporting both language development and musical awareness.</p>	<p>delivering the music curriculum and identify areas for support.</p> <p><b>Professional Development:</b> Promote awareness of available training opportunities, particularly for staff who are new to the school, to enhance subject knowledge and teaching practice.</p>
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## 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.

<p><b>What we do now:</b></p> <p>Durham Music Service provides individual <b>flute and violin tuition</b> outside of whole-class lessons, delivered during the school day. Currently, one KS1 pupil receives violin tuition, four KS2 pupils study violin, and two KS2 pupils study flute.</p> <p>Parents contribute <b>£64 per academic term</b> for tuition, which represents one-third of the total cost. The remaining cost is subsidised through a combination of school funding and support from Durham Music Service, utilising funding from the Department for Education via Arts Council England. Pupils work towards a range of certificates, awarded termly.</p> <p>Instrument hire is available at <b>£42 per academic term</b>. For pupils eligible for <b>Free School Meals</b>, tuition fees are subsidised to <b>£44 per term</b>, and instrument hire is reduced to <b>£11 per term</b>. <b>Looked-after children</b> receive fully subsidised tuition and instrument hire.</p> <p>Durham Music Service guarantees <b>24 lessons per academic year</b> and aims to provide up to <b>30 lessons</b>.</p>	<p><b>What we intend to develop:</b></p> <p><b>Expand Access to Specialist Tuition:</b> Increase the number of pupils participating in specialist music lessons.</p> <p><b>Raise Awareness Among Parents:</b> Enhance the profile of these services by improving communication with families. Actively invite current Year 2 pupils to join violin lessons.</p> <p><b>Promote Musical Opportunities Within School:</b> Provide regular performance opportunities for musicians and choirs at a variety of events, such as Christmas services, whole-school assemblies, and after-school concerts where parents are welcomed into school.</p> <p><b>Maximise Engagement with Rocksteady:</b> Increase the proportion of pupils accessing Rocksteady sessions to make full</p>
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<p>In addition, <b>Rocksteady Music School</b> offers weekly band tuition. Due to increased demand, the school is now hosting <b>nine bands</b>, compared to five in the previous year.</p>	<p>use of the two weekly sessions currently available (participation is currently at 27.2%).</p>
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## 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.

<p><b>What we do now:</b></p> <p>Throughout the year, children learn a variety of songs linked to key events such as <b>Easter, Christmas, and Harvest</b>, as well as songs used in <b>class liturgy</b> and <b>Celebration of the Word</b>. Pupils also participate in singing during <b>Mass</b>, both in church and in school.</p> <p>Each December, children have the opportunity to attend a <b>local pantomime</b>, which incurs a small charge.</p> <p>To enrich musical engagement, the school will set out a clear plan of musical experiences for the academic year. This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular singing in assemblies</li> <li>• Musical performances and concerts within school</li> <li>• Choir and instrumental showcases</li> <li>• Trips to external concerts and live performances</li> </ul> <p>These experiences aim to provide pupils with a broad and inspiring exposure to music, both within and beyond the classroom.</p>	<p><b>What we intend to develop:</b></p> <p><b>Whole-School Song Plan:</b> Develop a comprehensive, year-long plan for songs to be taught and practiced across all year groups, including those linked to key liturgical and seasonal events. This will be created in collaboration with our Secondary feeder school <b>St Bede's</b> to ensure consistency and quality.</p> <p><b>Broaden Musical Experiences:</b> Provide pupils with opportunities to experience a wider range of musical activities, such as attending live performances or participating in workshops (e.g., drumming workshops).</p> <p><b>Community Engagement:</b> Signpost families to local musical opportunities, including stage groups, community choirs, and local bands, to encourage wider participation beyond school.</p> <p><b>Peer Performance Opportunities:</b> Ensure pupils across all key stages have regular opportunities to watch and celebrate live performances by their peers, including those involved in <b>Rocksteady</b>, flute, and violin tuition.</p>
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