



Bill Quay Primary School

Music Development Plan 2025-26

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jane Kitson
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	North and South of Tyne and Darlington
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Gateshead Music Service

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

Bill Quay Primary School already publishes the school curriculum for music for each year group on our website. Our school music curriculum has been rewritten to incorporate the key principles and recommendations of the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021).

In Reception Class:

Pupils receive a discrete 30-minute session of music teaching each week with a music specialist, and also have their own music area within the classroom where they can explore sounds. Other songs are integrated into the school day to assist with and enhance their learning. They have Listening Time in class each week, where they listen, move and respond to a range of songs and pieces of music, and have a selection of tuned and untuned percussion instruments in their music area where they can explore sounds and begin to combine and create rhythms and musical patterns.

In Key Stage 1:

Y1 pupils receive a discrete 30-minute session of music teaching each week with a music specialist, and a further music session during the week with their class teacher. Songs and instruments are used within the classroom at other times in the week to support their learning in other areas of the curriculum, and they have a Listening Time each week to listen, move and respond to a range of songs and pieces of music. Y2 pupils receive a discrete 45-minute weekly music lesson, and additionally take part in a weekly 30-minute singing assembly with KS2.

In Key Stage 2:

All pupils receive a discrete 1 hour music lesson each week, and additionally take part in a weekly 30-minute singing assembly.

Singing is taught both during the weekly singing assembly and also as an integral part of half-termly units of work. **Composition** is fully integrated into each unit of work, and each unit includes pieces of music which develop **Listening** skills as well as a broader knowledge of a range of repertoire, including works from different eras, cultures and composers of different genders. Pupils get the opportunity to play a wide range of tuned and untuned percussion instruments in general throughout their units of work,

with particular opportunities to develop their **Performing** skills as a whole-class ensemble in the following instruments:

Djembe drums: one half-term in Y2 and one half-term in Y5

Penny Whistle: two half-terms in Y3

Recorder: two half-terms in Y4

Ukulele: four half-terms in Y5 and Y6

Samba band: one half-term in Y4

Part B: Extra-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.

Outside of what is taught in lesson time, Bill Quay Primary School offers one-to-one piano tuition and small-group guitar and brass tuition. We currently have five pupils learning piano in school, thirteen pupils learning brass instruments and twenty-six KS2 pupils learning guitar. Our piano pupils work towards ABRSM graded exams. Tuition is paid for by parents, and is sometimes subsidised by the school on a case-by-case basis. Our piano and guitar lessons are provided by a member of staff.

We offer a weekly choir for KS2 pupils on a Friday after school, which currently has forty-five members – approximately 38% of KS2 attend each week. All pupils are welcome – we don't hold auditions for our school choir. The choir is free of charge.

We also run a seasonal recorder ensemble which meets at lunchtime and develops the skills which have been learnt in lessons. This is open to pupils in Y4, Y5 and Y6 and is free of charge.

We work in close partnership with Gateshead Music Service, which can offer instrument loans and also ensemble opportunities. Gateshead Music Service provides our brass tuition and the loan of the instruments. We have created links with National Youth Choir of Great Britain and some of our pupils have been able to participate in NYCGB whole-day weekend workshops. We also work with Conductive Music in developing STEM approaches to music-making and composition.

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.

Pupil Performances:

All pupils have the opportunity to perform either solo, in a small group or as part of a whole-class ensemble within their music lessons and in assembly.

Each class will perform a song to the rest of the school in assembly at least once during the year.

Reception Class will perform Harvest songs and nursery rhymes in October, a Nativity in December, spring songs at Easter and give a summer performance in July, all for parents / carers.

KS1 pupils will perform songs for a Harvest Festival in October at Bill Quay Community Church, and Christmas songs at a Coffee and Carols event in December, for parents / carers.

KS2 pupils will perform songs for a Coffee and Carols event in December for parents and carers.

In addition, all guitarists, brass players and pianists will have the opportunity to play for the rest of the school in assembly at least once during the school year, and pianists and recorder players will also play at the Coffee and Carols events.

The school choir will sing at least once each term in assembly and will also perform at the Coffee and Carols events. They will also go out and sing for older members of the community at McErlane Square in December.

The school choir, pianists, brass players, guitarists and recorder players will also participate in our annual Spring Music Showcase at a local secondary school in March 2026 for parents and carers. They will participate in a virtual Christmas Card, organised by Gateshead Music Service, in December 2025, with the possibility of then participating in the North East Choir of the Year competition in February 2026. We also plan to participate in the Annual Sing (formerly the Spring Sing) at The Glasshouse in June 2026. We are awaiting information to be released from The Glasshouse relating to their Big Sing and Big Sing for Mini-Singers for summer 2026.

Y6 pupils and our school choir will perform an end-of-year musical show in July 2025.

Parents and carers are invited to buy tickets at a small fee for those events open to them. Subsidised / free tickets are available on a case-by-case basis.

Outside Performances:

In December 2025 the whole school will enjoy the annual Christmas Roadshow presented by the Gateshead Music Service Workshop Team. This is fully subsidised by the school. In the spring term, a violinist will come into school to give a short recital and

showcase the violin to pupils. The violinist is a connection of the music co-ordinator. We are currently awaiting information from The Glasshouse ICM regarding their Sounds of the Deep performance in April 2026. (Information to be released in November 2025)

Further opportunities to attend concerts / events elsewhere or to bring performers into school are still be reviewed.

In the future

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

Our priorities to develop music in our school in the next two years include:

- recording videos to support regular singing in Reception class outside of their discrete music session (by Christmas 2026)
- developing a Listening Programme of pieces for Reception Class and Year 1 to support their music curriculum in class (by Christmas 2026)
- resourcing the new school nursery with instruments to implore musical sounds through play and establishing a regular weekly time to sing together (by November 2025)
- embedding brass tuition within the school and ensuring that there is continued enthusiasm for and interest in playing brass instruments to future-proof the lessons and the development of our Bill Quay Brass Band
- developing the links we already have with Heworth Grange Comprehensive School and Hebburn Comprehensive School to be able to share transition information, enhance musical experiences and opportunities and share ideas