

Music development plan summary:
Newark Hill Academy

Overview

At Newark Hill Academy, we believe that every child deserves access to a high-quality music education. Music forms an important part of our broad, ambitious and inclusive curriculum and directly supports our CHILD Pledge by ensuring pupils are:

- **Challenged** through learning new musical knowledge, skills and techniques.
- **Healthy and Happy** through creative expression, collaboration and performance.
- **Inspired** by a diverse range of musical traditions, cultures and careers.
- **Lifelong Learners** who develop confidence, resilience and appreciation of the arts.
- **Diverse** in their understanding and celebration of music from different cultures, communities and time periods.

Our music curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils can sing, listen, compose, perform and evaluate music confidently, while developing their cultural capital and understanding of the role music plays in society.

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Laura Hill
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Curtis White
Name of local music hub	Peterborough Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Peterborough Music Tutoring Services, Rocksteady

Part A: Curriculum music

At Newark Hill Academy, music is taught as a progressive subject from EYFS to Year 6. Our curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and the Model Music Curriculum: ensuring that musical knowledge and skills are carefully sequenced and revisited over time so that pupils know more, remember more and can do more as musicians.

Music is delivered through high-quality classroom teaching supported by Charanga alongside practical musical experiences. Learning is structured around the key strands identified within the Model Music Curriculum:

- Listening and Appraising
- Singing
- Performing and Playing Instruments
- Composing and Improvising
- Reading and Notating Music
- Understanding Musical Elements and Structures

Pupils progressively develop their understanding of:

- Pulse, rhythm and tempo
- Pitch and melody
- Dynamics and expression
- Timbre and texture
- Structure and form
- Musical notation
- Performance techniques

The curriculum moves pupils from exploration and imitation in the early years towards increasing independence in performing, composing, evaluating and understanding music by the end of Key Stage 2.

Consistent with the Model Music Curriculum, singing is at the heart of musical learning. All pupils participate in regular singing opportunities through classroom lessons, assemblies and performances. Singing supports musical development, language acquisition, confidence and a sense of belonging.

Pupils listen to and study music from different cultures, traditions, genres and historical periods. This broadens cultural understanding and reflects the Diverse strand of our CHILD Pledge.

Music provision is fully inclusive. Adaptive teaching strategies, practical approaches and appropriate scaffolds ensure that pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils can access and succeed within the music curriculum.

Our curriculum overview can be found on our academy website.

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.

We believe every child should have opportunities to develop their musical interests beyond classroom lessons.

Current opportunities include:

- Weekly singing assemblies.
- Whole-class instrumental experiences.
- Instrumental tuition through external providers.
- Choir opportunities.
- Musical productions and performances.
- Participation in academy and community events.
- Enrichment activities linked to music and the performing arts.

We work closely with Peterborough Music Hub and other partners to broaden opportunities available to pupils and support progression beyond the classroom.

Where possible, support is provided to ensure that financial circumstances do not become a barrier to participation. We are committed to ensuring equitable access to musical opportunities for all pupils.

Through these opportunities, pupils can further develop their confidence, performance skills, teamwork and enjoyment of music.

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.

At Newark Hill Academy, we recognise that experiencing music is a vital part of musical development.

Throughout the academic year pupils have opportunities to:

- Perform to audiences.
- Celebration of Learning Events
- Experience live music.
- Participate in productions and showcases such as Harvest, Christmas, Eid and end of year productions.
- Work with visiting musicians and performers.
- Celebrate cultural and national events through music.
- Explore music from a wide range of traditions, genres and historical periods.
- Weekly lunch time choir.

Examples of musical experiences include:

- Harvest celebrations.
- Christmas performances.
- Celebration assemblies.
- End of year productions.
- Community events.
- Visiting performers and musicians.
- Opportunities to attend or experience live music performances with a whole school theatre trip each year.

These experiences enrich pupils' cultural capital, support personal development and contribute to pupils becoming confident, creative and expressive young people

Reviewing Last Years Priorities

Priority 1: Music CPD for Staff

Action completed: Staff received ongoing curriculum support and professional development through subject leadership, academy collaboration and external partnerships. This strengthened teachers' understanding of progression within the music curriculum and increased confidence in delivering singing, listening, composing and performance activities.

Impact: Greater consistency in music teaching across the academy and increased staff confidence in teaching musical vocabulary, notation and performance skills. Pupils demonstrate improved engagement and progression across the curriculum.

Priority 2: Increasing Performance Opportunities

Action completed: Pupils participated in a range of performances including celebration assemblies, Christmas productions, the Year 6 production, Rocksteady concerts, Young Voices and curriculum-based showcases.

Impact: Increased opportunities for pupils to perform publicly, develop confidence and share their musical achievements with families and the wider community.

In the future

At Newark Hill Academy, we are committed to enriching, broadening and strengthening music provision so that all pupils can develop as confident performers, composers and listeners. Our future priorities are informed by the Model Music Curriculum, Ofsted subject guidance and the ambitions of the National Plan for Music Education.

A review of our current music provision has identified the following priorities. By July 2027:

- All teaching staff will participate in annual music professional development to further strengthen curriculum knowledge and delivery.
- Each year group will provide at least one opportunity for parents and carers to observe or celebrate musical learning.
- Pupils will demonstrate increased confidence in using subject-specific musical vocabulary when discussing, performing and evaluating music.
- Opportunities for singing will be further developed across the academy, ensuring all pupils sing regularly as part of curriculum and enrichment provision.
- Music leaders will monitor curriculum progression, participation and outcomes to ensure equitable access and achievement for all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND.
- Pupils will experience at least one live musical performance or engagement with professional musicians during the academic year.
- Opportunities for instrumental learning, ensemble participation and musical performance will continue to expand across the academy.
- The use of music technology and digital composition will be further developed to enhance creativity and musical expression.

These priorities will support our ambition that every child leaves Newark Hill Academy with a secure foundation in music, a broad appreciation of musical culture and the confidence to participate in music throughout their lives.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Music provision is monitored through lesson visits, curriculum reviews, participation data, pupil voice, staff voice and performance opportunities. Findings are reported to leaders termly and inform academy improvement priorities and the annual review of the Music Development Plan.