



Northgate & DSFC School Music Development Plan 2025-2026

POLICY	School Music Development Plan 2025-26
STATUS/DATE OF THIS VERSION	September 2025
APPROVED BY	Board of Trustees
RATIFIED BY	Trust Board
REVIEW	September 2026

This policy is operated by all the schools in Unity Education Trust (as listed below).

Any queries about the policy should be directed, in the first instance, to the Headteacher/Head of School:

- **Beeston Primary School**
- **Garvestone Primary School**
- **Grove House Infant and Nursery School**
- **King's Park Infant School**
- **Northgate High School and Dereham Sixth Form College**
- **The Pinetree School**
- **Unity Pathfinder Schools**
- **Unity Compass Schools**
- **Churchill Park Academy**
- **Greyfriars Academy**
- **Highgate Infant School**
- **King's Oak Infant School**
- **Wimbotsham and Stow Academy**
- **Magdalen Academy**
- **St German's Academy**
- **Great Dunham Primary School**

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Dave Brook
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Dave Brook
Name of local music hub	Norfolk Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

The [national plan for music education](#) comprises the following key features:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

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.

You can view the Curriculum plan for Music on our website: -

<https://eadn-wc02-12584831.nxedge.io/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MUSIC-Curriculum-MAP-2022-2023.pdf>

If not included in your published school curriculum information, set out how time per week is allocated for curriculum music for each key stage and term (or each half-term) of the academic year.

Students are allocated 1 lesson per week of classroom music.

Also consider including:

- whether your school music curriculum is informed by the [model music curriculum](#) (March 2021), non-statutory guidance for teaching music from Key Stages 1 to 3 or any other published curriculum guidance. Although the curriculum does not necessarily use individual pieces suggested in the Model curriculum, it does follow the principles and scope of genres that is included in the MMC
- a brief summary of the opportunities pupils have to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time, such as through whole-class ensemble teaching in some or all year groups.

During each year of KS3 and KS4, students as a **minimum** complete performance and composition tasks on the following instruments: -

- Singing (each KS3 year group complete a unit based on vocal skills)
- Keyboards
- Guitars and ukeleles
- Untuned percussion (eg Samba kit, Djembes, Drum kit)
- Tuned percussion (xylophones and Glockenspiels)

Yr7 complete a unit on instruments of the orchestra, and all get to try out one instrument from each of the four main orchestral families.

- information on any partnerships the school has to support curriculum music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations. If you are a music hub lead school, you can refer to this [here](#).

No formal partnerships are in place currently

For secondary schools: Set out what music qualifications and awards pupils can study and achieve at the school in the academic year, including graded music exams (all key stages) and GCSE, A level or vocational and technical qualifications (at key stage 4 and 16 to 18). If your school already publishes this information, include a link in this summary.

Students have the option to study GCSE Music (Eduqas) in KS4. Through peripatetic music lessons, students can study for instrumental exams through ABRSM, Trinity or Rockschool.

In the past students have studied BTEC Level 3 music at DSFC. There is currently no group, but it has been offered to the intake of Sept. 2025 as an option.

Part B: Extra/Co-curricular music provision

This is about how we provide 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.

Start with what music tuition your school offers outside of what is taught in lesson time, including one-to-one, small-group and large-group tuition for instruments or voice.

Students can currently study the following instruments with visiting peripatetic teachers: -

Guitar

Bass

Piano

Voice

Set out what ensembles that pupils can join outside of what is taught in lesson time, such as choirs or vocal ensembles, as well as instrumental ensembles, bands and groups, and other forms of music-making.

There are currently the following musical ensembles available for students to join. Any in bold are open to all students at NGHS/DSFC

Student Choir

Samba Band

School Band

Yr7 Band

Yr8 Band

Yr9 Band

Yr10 Band

Yr11 Band

Set out how pupils can make progress in music outside of lesson time, including instrument loans, weekend, after-school or holiday provision such as Saturday music centres, and any qualifications or awards pupils can achieve.

Also consider including:

- what instruments are offered, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- how pupils can join choirs or ensembles and from which year groups, charging and remissions information, and if the tuition is subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).
- information on where pupils can rehearse or practice individually or in groups.

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support co-curricular music, such as with your local music hub or other music education organisations.

Part C: Musical experiences and 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.

Set out what musical experiences are planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

There are three whole-school/college performances each year. These are the Christmas Concert (December), Spring Showcase (March) and Summer Showcase (June). These combine performances by the music groups listed above with solo/small group performances by students who are successful via an audition process.

For musical performances, concerts and shows in and out of schools, include how pupils get involved and from which year groups, whether pupils are participating or are members of the audience.

Also consider including:

- charging information, and if events are subsidised or free, including for parents or carers in particular circumstances (e.g. pupil premium eligibility).

Draw on information of any partnerships the school has to support musical experiences, such as with your local music hub, music education organisations, music organisations or musicians.

Our Future Plans

This is about what we are planning for subsequent years.

Use this space to include any information on any improvements you plan to make for subsequent years in curriculum music, co-curricular music or musical experiences, including when you plan to introduce changes.

Also consider including:

- any information that relates to the 7 features of high-quality music provision (see the text box at the beginning of the template), such as increasing lesson time to one hour a week each term, introducing the teaching of new instruments or having a termly school performance.

As a school, we are committed to continuously enhancing our music provision to ensure our pupils receive a well-rounded, high-quality music education. The following outlines our plans for improvements in curriculum music, co-curricular music, and musical experiences in the coming years, focusing on extending our offerings and introducing new initiatives.

Part A: Curriculum Music

1. Increased Technology Integration

In the next two years, we aim to introduce more technology into our music curriculum. This will include the incorporation of music production software, digital composition tools and music technology equipment into lessons. We will explore the integration of programs such as **Cubase** and or **Ableton** for composition and production tasks, enhancing students' learning and expanding their creative capabilities.

2. Expanded Instrumental Choices

To offer students greater diversity in their musical learning, we plan to introduce additional

instruments into the curriculum. These may include Drum Kit, string instruments (e.g., violin, cello) and brass instruments (e.g., trumpet, trombone), alongside the instruments already covered in our curriculum.

3. **Termly School Performances**

We will work towards establishing a more structured calendar for **termly school performances** (e.g., concerts, showcases). This will include regular opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning and progress, ensuring that every pupil can take part in at least one performance a year.

4. **Enhanced Music Qualifications**

By September 2027, we plan to offer the **BTEC Level 3 Music** qualification for students who are interested in pursuing a vocational route. Additionally, we will explore the option of introducing A-level Music or Music Technology to our curriculum to further support students aiming for higher education in the arts.

Part B: Co-Curricular Music Provision

1. **Instrument Loan Scheme Expansion**

To support students who wish to pursue music beyond the classroom, we are looking to expand our **instrument loan scheme**. We will aim to offer a broader range of instruments for loan, including those added to our curriculum in future years. We will also seek to ensure that students eligible for **pupil premium** have access to free or subsidized instrument loans.

2. **Extended After-School Music Clubs**

We plan to extend our **after-school music provision** by offering additional rehearsal time for our school ensembles and providing more opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular music activities. This will include starting a weekly Rock School in September, as well as additional weekly sessions for bands, choirs, and other ensembles, creating a more vibrant music community at our school.

3. **More Performance Opportunities**

As part of our long-term vision, we will aim to increase the number of performance opportunities available to students, such as **community concerts**, **collaborations with local artists**, and **performances at school events**. We plan to introduce performances in new settings, such as local festivals or charity events, to allow our students to gain wider performance experience.

4. **Strengthening Music Partnerships**

We are looking to establish formal partnerships with local **music hubs** and **education organizations**, which will enable us to access additional resources, expertise, and performance opportunities for our students. These collaborations will also help us offer more specialist tuition, workshops, and masterclasses with visiting musicians.

Part C: Musical Experiences and Events

1. **Broader Range of Musical Events**

Over the next few years, we plan to introduce a **broader range of musical experiences** for our students, including educational **trips to professional concerts** and **workshops with professional**

musicians. This will expose students to a wider variety of musical genres and enhance their understanding of the music industry.

2. **Collaborative Events with Local Schools and Community**

To further our engagement with the local community, we are planning to organise **collaborative musical events** involving local schools, community groups, and music organizations. These events will provide students with opportunities to perform alongside peers from different backgrounds and showcase their talents in a variety of settings.

3. **Increased Participation in National Competitions and Festivals**

We plan to increase our participation in **national and regional music competitions and festivals.** This will give students the chance to compete, perform, and interact with other schools, helping to raise the profile of our music department and provide students with new challenges and learning experiences.

4. **Incorporating Music Technology into Performances**

As part of our ongoing commitment to embracing technology in music education, we will incorporate **music technology into performances,** including digital mixing and production. This could involve students creating multimedia performances that combine live music with visuals or electronic elements, providing a dynamic and contemporary aspect to our school concerts.

Conclusion

By making these changes in the coming years, we aim to provide our students with a rich and diverse music education that not only fulfills the requirements of the national plan for music education but also inspires creativity, fosters musical talent, and prepares students for future success in the arts.

Further information

For further information, please see links below:

[Norfolk Music Hub](#)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go for support beyond the school.

Any additional school-specific links to add here

[Norfolk Music Hub](#)