



Music Development Plan: Overview 2026–2027

Vision Statement

At Sunningdale School, we believe that every pupil can **Be More...** Through music, pupils are supported to become more communicative, more engaged, more expressive, more creative, more independent and more confident in ways that are meaningful and individual to them.

Music is an inclusive, engaging and meaningful part of our personalised curriculum. We believe that all pupils should have access to high-quality musical experiences regardless of how they communicate, interact, participate or engage with the world around them. Through music, pupils are provided with opportunities to communicate, express themselves, build confidence, develop relationships and participate in shared experiences.

Our music provision reflects our commitment to personalised learning and supports pupils to participate through singing, movement, sound exploration, technology, sensory experiences and performance. Learning is adapted to reflect pupils' individual strengths, needs, learner characteristics, engagement profiles and motivators. We aim to ensure every pupil can engage with music in ways that are meaningful and motivating to them, supporting the development of communication, emotional wellbeing, creativity, independence and participation within school, the wider community and life beyond school.

Curriculum Music

Our vision is:

To ensure all pupils access a high-quality, personalised and inclusive music curriculum that reflects how they learn, communicate, participate and engage.

What do we do well?

- We have developed a music curriculum that reflects how pupils learn, communicate, participate and engage across our provision pathways.
- Music provision is adapted to pupils' individual learner characteristics, engagement profiles and motivators, ensuring participation is meaningful and accessible.
- Learning is personalised to support pupils to make progress towards their Personalised Learning Plan outcomes whilst engaging in meaningful and motivating musical experiences.
- The curriculum provides clear musical progression whilst remaining flexible enough to respond to pupils' individual strengths, needs and ways of learning.
- The Initiate Music Scheme of Work supports pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) through sensory-rich musical experiences centred around engagement, anticipation, exploration and interaction.
- The Functional and Explore Music Scheme of Work provides a structured progression framework built around the key musical elements of pulse, rhythm, timbre, dynamics, tempo, pitch and structure.
- Music sessions follow consistent structures which support familiarity, anticipation, participation and successful engagement.
- AAC, sensory approaches, switches, eye-gaze technology, Soundbeam and music technology are used to maximise accessibility and participation.
- New resonance boards have been introduced and embedded within music provision to support pupils with complex sensory and physical needs.

- Additional instruments and resources have been purchased to further enhance musical exploration, creativity and engagement.
- Assessment is personalised and reflects each pupil's individual strengths, needs, motivators and ways of learning. Pupils are supported to make progress from their own starting points through the development of communication, engagement, participation and independence, whilst also developing musical knowledge, understanding and skills through meaningful and motivating musical experiences.

Co-Curricular

Our vision is:

To provide meaningful and motivating opportunities for pupils to participate in music beyond timetabled lessons, supporting communication, interaction, wellbeing, confidence and participation alongside others through inclusive and personalised musical experiences.

What do we do well?

- Sing and Sign Choir provides opportunities for pupils to participate in singing, signing and performance.
- Pupils access specialist music therapy provision where appropriate.
- Partnerships with community musicians and organisations such as Sunderland Music Connects and Nordoff and Robbins provide additional opportunities for pupils to engage in musical experiences beyond the curriculum.
- Music opportunities are adapted to reflect pupils' individual learner characteristics, engagement profiles and motivators, ensuring participation is meaningful and accessible.
- A dedicated music room and specialist resources support musical exploration, creativity and engagement.
- Pupils have access to sensory, interactive and technology-based musical experiences.

Enrichment

Our vision is:

To broaden pupils' experiences of music through performance, community participation and shared musical experiences, enabling pupils to develop confidence, communication, independence and a sense of belonging whilst engaging with the wider community in meaningful and accessible ways.

What do we do well?

- Pupils participate in performances and celebrations throughout the academic year.
- Opportunities are provided to engage with visiting musicians and external music organisations.
- Pupils access a range of musical experiences through choir, music therapy and lunchtime enrichment activities.
- Music supports communication, confidence, social interaction and participation within school, the wider community and life beyond school.
- Community partnerships continue to be developed to increase access to inclusive musical opportunities.
- Pupils can engage through sound, movement, signing, technology, sensory exploration or performance according to their individual strengths and needs.
- Partnerships with organisations such as Jessie's Fund and Sunderland Music Connects enhance opportunities for pupils to engage in meaningful musical experiences beyond the classroom.

Current Development Priorities 2026–27

- Continue to embed and refine our Functional and Explore music curriculum.
- Build upon the strengths of our Initiate Music provision, ensuring alignment across the wider music curriculum.
- Explore opportunities for pupils to access specialist instrumental and ensemble experiences.
- Continue to extend enrichment opportunities through partnerships with musicians, community organisations and specialist music providers.