

Music development plan 2024-2026

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	June 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Wingerath
Name of local music hub	Northampton Music Hub

Vision Statement

Music will become an integral part of our school's daily life, supporting the emotional, social, and academic development of all pupils. Through carefully designed experiences, pupils will develop emotional regulation strategies, enhance communication skills, build positive relationships, and experience success in creative expression. The plan aligns with the Model Music Curriculum and makes use of Sing Up resources, adapted for the needs of pupils with SEMH.

Key Aims

Area	Aim
Emotional Regulation	Use music to support emotional self-regulation, reduce anxiety, and promote calm routines.
Communication & Language	Use song, rhythm, and musical games to develop expressive and receptive language skills.
Positive Behaviours	Use structured musical activities to reduce incidents of challenging behaviour and improve focus.
Creativity & Achievement	Create opportunities for pupils to experience success through music, building self-esteem.
Staff Confidence & Skills	Build staff capacity to confidently use music as a therapeutic and curriculum tool.

Key Priorities

Priority	Actions	Timeframe	Success Indicators
Embed daily music moments into school routines.	Daily 'soft start' music sessions (calming playlists, drumming circles). - Use transition music to support routines.	Summer 2025	Reduced anxiety at start of day. Smoother transitions. Improved pupil regulation (staff feedback).
Develop therapeutic music interventions.	Partner with local music therapists. - Train staff in therapeutic music approaches (e.g., drumming therapy, singing for wellbeing). - Establish small group/1:1 sessions.	Autumn 2025	Reduction in incidents. Pupil voice reflects positive engagement.
3. Curriculum enrichment.	Adapt Model Music Curriculum using Sing Up and creative approaches suitable for SEMH. - Use music across topics (e.g., storytelling, PSHE).	Throughout 2025-2026	Regular engagement in music sessions. Music embedded in wider curriculum.
4. Build staff capacity.	- CPD on using music for regulation and behaviour support. - Resource bank: playlists, instruments, activity guides. - Sing Up subscription for all staff.	Autumn 2025	Staff confidence surveys show increased skills. Music embedded in behaviour support plans.
5. Showcase and celebrate.	- Pupil performances and recordings. - Parent engagement through music showcases and shared listening events.	Autumn 2025 onwards	Increased family engagement. Pupils show increased confidence and self-esteem.

Music Across the Day – Offer Map

Time of Day	Music Activity	Purpose/SEMH Focus
Start of Day	Soft start music (calming playlists, drumming circles, singing familiar songs)	Reduce anxiety, create calm, build routine
Transitions & Breaks	Predictable music cues, active music breaks (dance, stretch, mindfulness music)	Regulate, refocus, support transitions
Curriculum Learning	Adapted Model Music Curriculum using Sing Up songs, storytelling through sound, improvisation	Language, creativity, engagement
Therapeutic Interventions	Small group/1:1 music therapy (drumming, singing, soundscapes)	Emotional regulation, expression
Reflection & Check-Ins	Musical mood thermometer, song journaling, personal calming playlists	Self-awareness, emotional literacy
End of Day	Reflective songs, group singing circle	Connection, closure, sense of achievement

Calming Playlist

Track Name	Artist / Notes
Weightless	Marconi Union
Somewhere Over the Rainbow / What a Wonderful World	Israel Kamakawiwo'ole
Clair de Lune	Claude Debussy
Better Place (Acoustic)	Rachel Platten
Lullaby (Goodnight, My Angel)	Billy Joel
River Flows in You	Yiruma
Peace Like a River	African American Spiritual (Acoustic versions)
Dreamscape	Relaxing Instrumental (Spotify/YouTube)
Ocean Waves or Rain Sounds	Ambient Nature Playlists
Sun Will Set	Zoe Keating

Regulation-Through-Music Toolkit

When	Music Tool	How to Use
Start of Day	Grounding drumming circle	Use heartbeat rhythms, let pupils lead.
Transitions	Predictable music cues	Same track used consistently.
Signs of Escalation	Personal music box / playlists	Headphones with calming playlists or preferred music.
Emotional Check-In	Musical mood thermometer	Pupils select instruments/tracks matching their feelings.
Break Times	Movement to music	Dance breaks or yoga stretches to music.
Reflection Time	Song journaling	Pupils pick songs and express feelings through drawing or discussion.
Conflict Recovery	Drumming for regulation	Soft, steady drumming to support breathing and calm.
End of Day	Group singing circle	Familiar songs to promote togetherness (e.g., "Lean On Me").

Staff Support & Resources

Resource	Purpose
Sing Up Whole School Subscription	Access to SEMH-friendly songs, resources, and CPD videos
Model Music Curriculum (Adapted)	Use as a framework, flexibly delivered through therapeutic and exploratory approaches
Quick Grab Music Kit	Instruments, chimes, Bluetooth speaker, laminated mood cards
Pre-made Playlists	For calm, happy, focused moods
CPD Offer	Training on therapeutic drumming, singing for wellbeing, and using music in behaviour plans

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Introduction of a wider range of instruments on offer for small group or individual lessons.
- Introduction of further whole-class ensemble projects delivered by a music specialist.
- Further develop performance opportunities for our young musicians throughout the school year.
- Further develop engagement in extra-curricular music for Pupil Premium and SEND children.
- Develop a dedicated music teaching space for use by ensembles and class curriculum lessons.