

Music development plan summary: Gayton Junior School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs. Parsons
Name of local music hub	Derby & Derbyshire Music Partnership
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

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.

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.

At Gayton, we are committed to providing all pupils with a rich, inclusive and progressive music education that develops their music knowledge, skills, creativity and confidence. Our Music Development Plan sets out our vision for music across the school, including curriculum music, wider opportunities and musical experiences. Through high quality teaching, regular opportunities to perform and listen to music, instrumental tuition and engagement with our local music hub, we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to develop as a musician and experience the joy and benefits that music can bring.

We provide one-hour weekly music lessons to all year groups. These lessons are taught by class teachers and music specialists. The teaching is supported by high quality bespoke planning as well as specialised planning from the award winning scheme Charanga which covers all aspects of the National Curriculum for Music, enabling teachers to deliver creative, exciting and progressive lessons. To view the progression map in further detail, please click on the link below:

<https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk/skills-progression-documents/>

Year 3

Through learning to play handbells, children develop their ability to maintain a steady pulse, perform simple rhythms and melodies, read and respond to musical notation and develop their aural memory. They learn to listen and respond to others and perform as part of an ensemble. Children also develop their understanding of pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression while building confidence through performance.

Children are given the opportunity to develop their singing skills through a range of songs from the Charanga scheme including *Stop Bullying*. They develop their ability to sing confidently and accurately, maintain a steady pulse and performing with appropriate rhythm, pitch, dynamics and expression. Children also learn and perform a selection of Christmas songs, providing opportunities to develop their ensemble singing skills and perform to an audience. Through regular singing children build confidence, develop their speaking and listening skills and learn to work collaboratively as part of a group performance.

Year 4

All children in Year 4 take part in the Wider Opportunities programme, where they learn to play the Ukulele. These lessons are delivered by music specialists from the Derbyshire Music Hub, providing children with the opportunity to develop their instrumental skills and confidence. Throughout the programme, children learn to play a range of pieces, developing their ability to perform both individually and as part of an ensemble. At the end of the year, the children have the opportunity to showcase their learning by performing in a special assembly for their parents and carers.

Children develop their understanding of musical notation, including crotchets, quavers, semibreves and rests and use this knowledge to read and perform simple rhythmic patterns. They develop their understanding and use of musical vocabulary including pulse, melody, rest and duration. Through their ukulele lessons, children apply their knowledge of rhythm and notation when learning and performing new pieces.

Year 5

Children follow the Charanga musical scheme to learn how to play the glockenspiel. Building on their learning in year 3 and 4, children further develop their ability to read and perform from musical notation, using their knowledge of crotchets, quavers, semibreves, and rests to perform complex rhythms. They build on their understanding of pulse, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, pitch and melody using a wider range of vocabulary to describe and appraise music.

As part of our cross curricular work, children also complete an Art and Music unit where they explore the idea of music representing something, using quality music from different traditions and culture as inspiration. They also complete a Charanga six-week music project called 'Plastic', which complements their topic unit 'Our Precious Planet'. Through this project, the children develop their ability to create, perform and respond to music, working collaboratively and applying their developing musical knowledge and skills in context.

Children use Soundation to develop their understanding of digital music production. They explore how to create, edit and arrange musical ideas using loops, samples and virtual instruments while developing their understanding of rhythm, melody, texture and structure. Children have opportunities to compose and produce their own pieces of music, making creative choices and evaluating and refining their work.

Year 6

In Year 6, children follow a bespoke music curriculum designed to broaden and deepen their musical knowledge and understanding. They explore the lives and works of significant composers and musicians, while developing an understanding of how music has evolved across different historical periods. Children listen to, appraise and compare music from a diverse range of genres, cultures and traditions from around the world identifying key musical features and discussing how music reflects the time, place and culture in which it was created. This enables pupils to develop their musical vocabulary, critical listening skills and appreciation of a wide range of musical styles and traditions.

As part of their wider musical experience, year 6 pupils also take part in a production for parents, developing their singing, acting and dancing skills. This provides an opportunity for pupils to work collaboratively, develop confidence and performance skills and showcase their creativity to an audience.

SEND

We are committed to ensuring that all children, including those with SEND, have full access to and can participate meaningfully in music. Lessons are adapted to meet individual needs through scaffolding, differentiated activities, visual and practical resources, repetition and additional adult support where required.

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.

- **School Choir** - We have a Key Stage 2 choir who meet weekly to practise. The choir performs in school assemblies and within the local community.
- **Young Voices** - Children attend and participate in a concert called Young Voices. They get to sing, dance, perform, observe and engage with a range of musical professionals.
- **Instrumental opportunities**- We offer a private small group or one to one violin lessons led by a qualified music teacher. These are paid for by parents/carers and a space in school is available for these lessons to take place in.

- **Extra – Curricular groups** –We provide additional ukulele sessions allowing pupils to develop their skills and interests further.

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.

- **Weekly singing assemblies** –Pupils take part in regular singing assemblies to build confidence, develop their voices and celebrate music together.
- **Derby Halle Concert** – Pupils have the opportunity to perform at the Derby Halle as part of a special concert experience.
- **Young Voices (Choir)** – Selected Pupils join the Young Voices choir, performing at a major concert with thousands of other children.
- **Year 3 Christmas play**
- **Year 6 end of year production**
- **Violin assembly/ concert**

In the future

- Promote and raise awareness of local music opportunities, enabling children to access a wider range of musical experiences beyond school.
- Continue to provide opportunities for children to perform and showcase their musical skills, celebrating their progress and experiences both within school and the wider community.
- Continue to develop subject knowledge and confidence through relevant CPD and professional development opportunities.
- Strengthen links with local music organisations and the local music hub to provide children with additional musical experiences and opportunities. Contact local secondary schools.