

Music development plan summary: Danesholme Academies

Overview

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	Emma Cole Wallace
Name of local music hub	NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)
Name of other music education organisation	GF Music Rock Steady Music Schools

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 Danesholme Academies, music is taught as a discrete subject through the Primary Knowledge Curriculum (PKC), which provides a carefully sequenced and knowledge-rich programme of study from Early Years to Year 6. The curriculum develops pupils' understanding of musical concepts, vocabulary, notation, composition, performance and appreciation, whilst exposing them to a diverse range of musical traditions, genres and composers. Music is taught weekly throughout the academic year, ensuring that all pupils receive a minimum of one dedicated music lesson per week. Lessons build progressively on prior learning so that pupils develop both their musical knowledge and practical skills over time. Singing forms a central part of the curriculum and is embedded within classroom learning, assemblies and wider school performances. The curriculum enables pupils to:
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- Perform using their voices and a range of tuned and untuned instruments.
- Listen to, appraise and discuss a broad range of musical styles and traditions.
- Understand key musical elements including pulse, rhythm, pitch, tempo, dynamics and notation.
- Compose and improvise music creatively.
- Develop confidence, resilience and teamwork through collaborative musical experiences.

In addition to curriculum music lessons, pupils have opportunities to participate in performances in schools, showcase in our Celebration of Learning events and the school choir performs to the residents at the care home.

Where appropriate, pupils may work towards recognised music awards and performance opportunities through partnerships with specialist music providers. The school actively seeks opportunities for pupils to showcase their musical talents and to experience progression pathways into further musical study.

In Year 5, pupils will take part in a whole-class instrumental programme (ukulele) lasting one term. These sessions are delivered by professional musicians from the local music hub (NMPAT). They also provide the children with their own individual ukulele. The children have the opportunity to show off their learning through a group performance in front of the rest of the school and parents.

In Year 3, pupils will take part in a whole-class singing programme (Primary Vocal Curriculum) lasting for 10 weeks. These sessions are delivered by a singing specialist from the local music hub (NMPAT). The children have the opportunity to showcase their singing through a group performance to other children as well as their parents.

This curriculum entitlement ensures that all pupils develop a strong foundation in music, fostering creativity, cultural understanding and a lifelong appreciation of the subject.

Part B: Music tuition, choirs and ensembles

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.

At Danesholme Academies, we are committed to providing a range of musical opportunities beyond the classroom, enabling pupils to develop their confidence, enjoyment and skills as performers.

Children have regular opportunities to sing and perform throughout the academic year. Our Academy Choir plays an important role within the school community and performs for residents at the local care home, giving pupils the opportunity to share their musical talents while contributing positively to the wider community.

Pupils also showcase their musical learning through singing and musical performances at selected Celebration of Learning events each term. These performances allow children to celebrate their achievements with families and the wider school community. In addition, the Year 6 end-of-year production provides a valuable opportunity for pupils to take part in a large-scale musical performance, developing confidence, collaboration and presentation skills.

Through our partnership with a specialist music teacher, Key Stage 2 pupils are offered guitar lessons. These lessons take place during the school day and are delivered in small groups or on a one-to-one basis, enabling pupils to develop instrumental skills and progress beyond the core music curriculum.

Children in Key Stage 2 are also able to join the school choir, performing during assemblies, school events and community engagements. These opportunities help pupils develop their vocal skills, musicianship and confidence as performers.

Further opportunities for musical performance are provided through our partnership with NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust). Pupils in Year 3 and Year 5 have the opportunity to perform the music they have learned through NMPAT projects to fellow pupils and parents, celebrating their progress and inspiring younger children to engage in musical learning.

These enrichment opportunities provide clear pathways for pupils to develop their musical interests and talents, ensuring that those who wish to pursue music further are able to build upon the knowledge and skills gained through the Primary Knowledge Curriculum.

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.

- Choir performances throughout the academic year in both lower and upper key stage assemblies.

- Our pupils listen to a broad variety of music as they enter the hall for assemblies every week. Music is taken from a scheme (Musician of the Month) whose mission 'is to offer children a range of diverse experiences and knowledge over the course of their time in primary school, with direct links to the protected characteristics that span a vast range of musical traditions, western classical musicians and popular music.'
- Whole school celebration of World Music Day (celebrating music from different cultures and traditions) 21st June 2026 – (On Friday 19th June as World Music Day falls on a Sunday this year).
- Nativity with songs performed by EYFS pupils to parents / carers
- Featuring in many Celebration of Learning events to parents at the end of each term from Early Years to Year 6.
- Year 6 musical play to whole school children, with two separate performances to parents.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

- Rock Steady start their workshops from September 2026
- NMPAT have been contacted to arrange live musical performances to the whole school for the academic year 2026-27.
- A KS2 school choir performance in the community.
- Ongoing NMPAT music specialist teaching (instrumental and singing).

Further information

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts trust is the county's biggest arts teaching provider, providing lessons inside and outside of schools. NMPAT provide music tuition outside of school. NMPAT can provide lessons on a wide range of instruments and disciplines, including:

- brass: cornet, trumpet, tuba, trombone, French horn, tenor horn, baritone, euphonium
- composition
- drama
- guitar: acoustic, bass, electric
- harp
- keyboard and piano
- music production

- percussion: drum kit, orchestral percussion
- SEND
- strings: violin, viola, cello, double bass
- voice
- woodwind: clarinet, oboe, flute, bassoon, saxophone, recorder

Lessons outside school hours are usually arranged on a one-to-one basis with a specialist teacher and take place during term time, at NMPAT, Kettering Road, Northampton. Payment details can be found on the NMPAT website:

<https://nmpat.co.uk/finance-admin/families/pricing-payments/>

Danesholme Academies works in partnership with Rocksteady Music School, which provides pupils with the opportunity to learn an instrument and perform as part of a band. Delivered by specialist music teachers, Rocksteady lessons develop musical skills, confidence, teamwork and performance experience. Pupils progress through a structured programme of learning and can work towards nationally recognised music qualifications, supporting their musical development beyond the core curriculum.