

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.

Pupils receive a minimum of one hour of curriculum music each 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:

- 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 line with the The power of music to change lives: A National Plan for Music Education, Danesholme Academies is committed to ensuring that every pupil learns to sing, play instruments, create music and perform as part of a rich and ambitious music curriculum. Music is viewed as an entitlement for every child, and our progressive whole-school model ensures that all pupils experience high-quality musical learning, regular performance opportunities and participation in ensembles throughout their primary education.

Our curriculum is built upon a structured progression of singing and instrumental learning. Singing forms the foundation of musical development and is taught across all year groups through curriculum music lessons, assemblies, performances and special events. Alongside this, every pupil participates in Whole Class Ensemble Teaching, enabling all children to learn and perform on an instrument as part of their class. This develops musical confidence, notation skills, listening, teamwork and performance expertise.

The planned progression includes:

- **Year 1:** Tuned and untuned percussion ensemble work alongside singing.
- **Year 2:** Whole-class ocarina programme and singing development.
- **Year 3:** Whole-class singing and vocal leadership programme, developing pitch, harmony, performance and musical notation.
- **Year 4:** Whole-class recorder tuition and ensemble performance.
- **Year 5:** Whole-class ukulele tuition and ensemble performance.
- **Year 6:** Whole-class Djembe tuition and ensemble performance

All pupils perform regularly through class assemblies, Celebration of Learning events, seasonal performances, year-group showcases and whole-school events. Every child participates in at least one ensemble performance annually as part of their curriculum

entitlement, ensuring access to group music-making regardless of background or ability.

To further enrich musical experiences, pupils engage in annual live music opportunities, including performances by visiting musicians, attendance at local concerts and music hub events, school productions and community performances. These experiences help pupils appreciate a wide range of musical genres, cultures and traditions while inspiring future participation in music.

Danesholme Academies is committed to inclusion, equality and excellence in music education. Every child, including those with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and those with no prior musical experience, will have equitable access to singing, instrumental learning, ensemble participation and performance opportunities. Through adaptive teaching, targeted support and ambitious expectations, all pupils are supported to succeed and develop a lifelong appreciation of music.

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, pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their musical interests and talents beyond their entitlement through the curriculum. These opportunities support pupils in extending their musical knowledge, skills and enjoyment through additional singing, instrumental and performance experiences.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 are able to join the Academy Choir, which performs regularly at school events, community celebrations and local care homes. The choir provides pupils with opportunities to develop vocal confidence, musicality and performance skills while experiencing the benefits of singing as part of an ensemble.

Through our partnership with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT), pupils can access specialist music projects and performance opportunities. Pupils are signposted to wider musical opportunities available through NMPAT, including ensembles, instrumental learning and county music groups, enabling them to continue their musical development beyond the classroom.

Additional instrumental tuition is available for Key Stage 2 pupils through specialist guitar lessons delivered in small groups or individually. These opportunities enable interested pupils to develop their instrumental skills to a more advanced level and provide a pathway for continued musical study.

Pupils regularly share and celebrate their musical achievements through school performances. Opportunities include Termly Celebration of Learning events, class

assemblies, seasonal performances and the Year 6 production. These events allow pupils to perform for families and the wider school community, developing confidence and fostering a sense of achievement.

We are committed to ensuring that all pupils, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, can access musical opportunities and participate fully in the musical life of the school. Where appropriate, support and reasonable adjustments are put in place to remove barriers to participation.

Through these opportunities, pupils who develop a particular interest or talent in music are supported to progress beyond the core curriculum and continue their musical journey both within and beyond school.

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.

Danesholme Academies provides a rich programme of musical experiences throughout the academic year, ensuring that all pupils have regular opportunities to listen to, participate in and perform music for a range of audiences.

Pupils take part in regular choir performances throughout the year, with performances featuring in both Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 assemblies. These opportunities help to develop pupils' confidence, communication skills and enjoyment of collective music-making.

Music listening and appreciation form an important part of school life. As pupils enter assemblies each week, they listen to a diverse range of music selected through our *Musician of the Month* programme. This programme is designed to broaden pupils' musical knowledge by introducing them to musicians, genres and traditions from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds, supporting their understanding of diversity and the protected characteristics.

Each year, the school celebrates World Music Day through a whole-school event that explores music from different cultures, countries and traditions. This provides pupils with opportunities to appreciate and engage with music from across the world while celebrating diversity through music.

Performance opportunities begin in the Early Years, where pupils perform songs as part of the annual Nativity production for parents and carers. As pupils progress through the school, they regularly share their musical learning through performances within Celebration of Learning events, showcasing singing and musical achievements to families at the end of each term.

The programme of performances culminates in Year 6, where pupils participate in a full musical production performed to the whole school, alongside dedicated performances for parents and carers. This provides all Year 6 pupils with the opportunity to perform as part of a large-scale ensemble and celebrate their musical and personal development before moving on to secondary education.

Every pupil will experience at least one live musical performance annually through visiting musicians, Music Hub performances, concerts or workshops

Pupils demonstrating particular interest or aptitude are supported to access NMPAT ensembles, specialist tuition and county-level performance opportunities.

Through these experiences, pupils develop confidence as performers, gain exposure to a wide range of musical styles and traditions, and experience the enjoyment and sense of community that music can bring.

In the future

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

- To further enhance music provision and ensure pupils continue to benefit from a rich and varied musical experience, Danesholme Academies will implement the following developments during the 2026-27 academic year:
- Establish a partnership with Rocksteady Music School, with workshops and performance opportunities commencing from September 2026, providing pupils with additional opportunities to experience ensemble music-making and live performance.
- Strengthen links with Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT) by arranging a programme of live musical performances for the whole school throughout the academic year, enabling pupils to experience high-quality live music from professional musicians and specialist performers.
- Develop opportunities for the Key Stage 2 choir to perform within the local community, allowing pupils to share their musical achievements with wider audiences while contributing positively to community events and partnerships.
- Continue and expand specialist music provision through our partnership with NMPAT, including instrumental and singing tuition, ensuring pupils have access to expert teaching and clear pathways for musical development beyond the classroom.
- Through these planned developments, we aim to broaden pupils' musical experiences, increase participation in performance opportunities, strengthen progression routes and further enrich the musical life of the school.

Further information

To support the ambitions set out in the The power of music to change lives: A National Plan for Music Education, Danesholme Academies works in partnership with a range of external providers to ensure that pupils can access high-quality musical opportunities beyond the core curriculum, develop their talents and progress to further musical study.

Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT)

Danesholme Academies actively signposts families to Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust (NMPAT), the county's leading music and arts education provider. NMPAT offers specialist instrumental and vocal tuition outside school hours, providing clear progression routes for pupils wishing to further develop their musical interests and talents beyond classroom music provision.

Pupils can access high-quality tuition across a wide range of disciplines, including brass, woodwind, strings, percussion, keyboard and piano, guitar, voice, composition, music production and drama. Specialist provision is also available for pupils with SEND, ensuring that opportunities for musical development are inclusive and accessible to all.

Lessons are typically delivered on an individual or small-group basis by expert music tutors during term time at NMPAT's Northampton centre. Through participation in NMPAT programmes, pupils can access ensemble opportunities, performances, progression pathways and wider musical experiences that support the aims of the National Plan for Music Education.

Further information regarding tuition, fees and financial support can be found on the NMPAT website: <https://nmpat.co.uk>.

Specialist Music Curriculum Support

Danesholme Academies works closely with GF Music to provide bespoke specialist support that enhances and enriches the school's music curriculum. This partnership allows the academy to respond to identified school needs, strengthen the quality of classroom music teaching and provide pupils with a broad and ambitious musical education.

Through this enhanced provision, pupils benefit from specialist expertise, high-quality teaching and additional opportunities to develop skills in performance, composition, listening and musical understanding.

Rocksteady Music School

Danesholme Academies also partners with Rocksteady Music School, providing pupils with opportunities to learn instruments and perform as part of a band within a structured and engaging programme.

Delivered by specialist music teachers, Rocksteady enables pupils to develop instrumental skills, teamwork, creativity, confidence and performance experience through regular ensemble playing. The programme aligns strongly with the expectations of the National Plan for Music Education by providing inclusive access to practical music-making and ensemble performance opportunities. Pupils work collaboratively, perform regularly and can progress towards nationally recognised music qualifications, supporting continued musical development and raising aspirations beyond the classroom.

Equality, Inclusion and Progression

Danesholme Academies is committed to ensuring that every pupil, regardless of background, prior experience, disadvantage, disability or special educational need, has access to high-quality music education and meaningful musical experiences. Through partnerships with external providers and a carefully planned curriculum, all pupils are supported to sing, perform, compose, listen, learn an instrument and participate in ensemble music-making, with clear pathways for progression available to those who wish to pursue further musical opportunities.

This collective approach ensures that pupils experience a rich, inclusive and aspirational musical education that reflects the vision and expectations of the DfE's *The power of music to change lives: A National Plan for Music Education*.