

Music development plan summary: Danesholme Academies

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jos Austin and Rosey Brown
Name of local music hub	NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)
Name of other music education organisation	GF Music

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.

Pupils at Danesholme Infant Academy all children receive a weekly music lesson. The school follows the Charanga Music scheme. The weekly lessons are well planned for reception through to year 2 and build on prior knowledge. The scheme provides clearly sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson. Key Learning and Outcomes with 'I Can' statements are provided to be used alongside assessment grids.

The scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. This ensures their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.

Pupils at Danesholme Junior Academy receive weekly music lessons from a qualified music specialist on a one-and-a-half term basis for 45 minutes. During music lessons, pupils are taught musical theory, where children will learn about different genres of music, different instruments, and musicians. Pupils are also encouraged to compose

their own music for a range of purposes, as well as playing and performing in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression, in line with the National Curriculum.

Children have access to both rhythmic and melodic instruments in Key Stage 2. In LKS2, pupils are taught how to perform and compose using tuned percussion. In UKS2, pupils build on their previous learning by performing and composing with recorders. A focus throughout KS2 is singing – pupils are taught to learn songs from memory and/or with notation as well as to sing expressively with attention to phrasing and pitch.

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.

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.

Through a music specialist, KS2 pupils at Danesholme Academies are offered guitar lessons. These lessons take place within the school day (during lesson time) and are delivered by a professional music teacher. Pupils are taught in small groups or on a one-to-one basis.

Children are also given the opportunity to join the KS2 school choir performing in school assemblies, during school performances and to the wider community.

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.

- KS2 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
- Year 1 Work Share performance to parents including music and singing
- Year 2 'leavers performance' including music and singing to school and separate performance to parents.
- Christmas Nativity Play performed by Year 3 children to the whole school, with a separate performance to parents.
- 'King Arthur' musical play by Year 4 children to whole school, with a separate performance to parents.
- Year 5 musical play by Year 5 children to whole school, with a separate performance to parents.
- Year 6 musical play by Year 5 children to whole school, with a separate performance to parents.

In the future

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

- NMPAT have been contacted to arrange live musical performances to the whole school for the academic year 2025-26 & 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/>