



Music development plan summary: Dovedale Primary School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/2025
Date this summary was published	7 th October 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	7 th October 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J McGowan
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs S Houseman
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	MLC-Academy (drumming)

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. We hope this information helps 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

At Dovedale Primary School our teachers deliver the Model Music Curriculum via the music scheme Charanga. Music is taught at every age range once a week for one hour. More information on what is covered in this scheme can be found on our curriculum pages within the Music tab. [Music | Dovedale Primary School](#)

Our musical curriculum is concentrated on the following strands:

- **listening critically** to and **appraising music** in order to gain a wider understanding and deeper appreciation of different musical genres and periods
- **singing** in order to develop vocal potential and singing techniques
- understanding **musical notation** and key **elements of music**
- developing competence and skill in **playing musical instruments**
- understanding and developing confidence in **improvisation**
- building independent and collective **composition** skills
- developing **performance** skills and developing stagecraft in collaboration with a group

Our teaching focuses on developing the children's ability to understand rhythm and follow a beat through performing on a range of musical instruments. By singing and playing along to songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach technical vocabulary such as volume, pitch, pulse and rhythm and children are encouraged to discuss music using a progressive musical vocabulary, and share a greater understanding of the style indicators for particular genres of music.

Every music block is based on a particular theme enabling children to develop an awareness of specific musical genres or periods and enables them to practise and perfect the skills of listening, appraising, singing, playing, performing and sharing, with improvising and composing being repeated in each block once a piece has been learnt.

Enrichment opportunities

Peripatetic staff teach lessons weekly to children who request them: including **guitar, piano and drumming**. These children are also given the opportunity to perform what they've learnt to an audience of children and parents.

Visiting groups are encouraged such as from **The Derbyshire Music Partnership** who have been teaching our **Year 4s** the **violin** to great success. Our school also encourages **Music ambassadors** in our **Music Expert Hub** and incorporates opportunities relating to the **Arts** throughout the year. We are also proud to have a **school choir** which enjoys performing at events within the school and at local events/schools.

Each department performs a 'large scale' **performance** during the school year:-

- EYFS – Christmas
 - Key Stage one – Spring Term 1st half
 - Lower juniors – Spring term 2nd half
 - Upper juniors – Summer term.
 - Year six showcase their leaver's assembly at the end of the summer term.
- Children also have the opportunity to take part in **Dovedale's Got Talent** in the summer. Each class performs a **class assembly** to the whole school and parents once a year.

Cultural Capital

The MMC suggests pupils experience a broad aural knowledge of Western Classical Music, Popular Music and Tradition Music from around the world. At Dovedale Primary School, we embrace **music from around the world by holding a whole school music event in June** where each class focuses on a particular musical genre originating from different countries across 6 different continents.

We also come together as a whole school to celebrate particular events during the calendar and collectively learn and sing together a song that reflects the theme e.g. "We'll meet again" to recognise Remembrance. In addition, we often have music themed assembly weeks within school for children to appreciate and hear different music styles.

Musicianship

Our pupils learn to recognise the tempo and create music to a steady and changing beat as well as practise playing rhythmic patterns on **tuned wind instruments from Year 1** onwards such as **recorders**. Children are taught how to listen for varying pitches of sound and to produce music in varying pitches with increasing accuracy. They also practise playing **percussion tuned instruments from Key Stage 2, glockenspiels**, and start to follow staff notation for a small range of notes, distinguishing between a wider range of note values and rests. They are introduced to major and minor chords further up into the Key Stage and **Year four** are given the opportunity to develop instrumental performance on **violins** over a term **from a musical specialist** from the **local Music Education Hub**.

Inclusion

All of our children take part in music lessons and our SEND children are well catered for being able to follow at a level that enables them to access and progress through the learning. We also ensure that they are in a setting and group size that supports their needs.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Enrichment opportunities

At Dovedale Primary we have a **Music expert group** which meets regularly throughout the year to learn and practise different aspects of music. The activities vary from singing to body percussion and drumming circles. It also enables children to respond to music from both classical composers and modern composers.

Peripatetic staff teach lessons weekly to children who request them: including **guitar**, **piano** and **drumming**. These children are also given the opportunity to perform what they've learnt to an audience of children and parents.

Dovedale Primary School also runs a **school choir** that practises a variety of pieces each week through the Autumn and Spring terms. They also perform to a live audience both in and outside at various events. This has included, Christmas and Summer fairs as well as performance at the Derbyshire University as well as alongside Chamber Choirs.

Part C: Musical experiences

Performance opportunities

Each department normally performs a 'large scale' performance during the school year:-

- EYFS – Christmas
- Key Stage one – Spring Term 1st half
- Lower juniors – Spring term 2nd half
- Upper juniors – Summer term.
- Year six showcase their leaver's assembly at the end of the summer term.

Children also have the opportunity to take part in **Dovedale's Got Talent** in the summer. Each class performs a **class assembly** to the whole school and parents once a year.

Live music

Over the last two years, Dovedale has been developing a music partnership with Wilsthorpe Secondary School where students perform to our children on a whole variety of instruments as part of their course, in managing concert skills. Through this experience, Dovedale pupils have listened to musicians live in violin, drum, flute, vocals, base and lead guitars, in both contemporary and classical music.

We are lucky to have a member of a local band, The Franchise, as part of our midday supervisory team and they have performed live band music, explaining the role and versatility of their instruments to our pupils. Our Violin tutors have also performed Cello duets to Dovedale pupils to broaden their experience of live music.

In the future

As our pupils are getting more proficient at playing the recorder, violin and glockenspiel, our next steps are for our pupils to develop greater skills in improvisation and composition. These areas have been the focus for our school's musical CPD and will continue next year to develop these areas further.

For our Y6 pupils we will be developing their composition skills in using musical technology to develop drum-beats via Charanga's Quick Beats resources which enable pupils to access and create beats appropriate to a particular style of music.

Dovedale celebrates music from across the world by each year group learning about a particular musical genre. By the end of a pupil's journey at Dovedale they will learn about music from Asia, New Zealand, Europe, Africa and the Americas. We will be investigating if this can contribute to certification of the Discover element of the Arts Award for our older pupils.

Further information

Dovedale Primary School is proud to work with these organisations. Please follow the links to find out more.

Derbyshire Music Hub

<https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk>

Music Learning Collective

<https://mlc-academy.com>