

Music development plan summary: Northbourne Church of England Primary School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 2025
Date this summary was published	Oct 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2025
Name of the school music lead	Miss R Cooper
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Deal Music and Arts, Bold As

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.

Northbourne Church of England Primary School is proud to be a Music Mark School. The award recognises that at Northbourne there is:

- evidence of a willingness to engage in development conversations related to improving music provision
- recognition of the value of music education as part of a broad and balanced curriculum
- a strategy for music in place which provides for all children

Music teaching at Northbourne is delivered in each class through the 'Sparkyard' Music Curriculum. Sparkyard is an "innovative, skills-based music curriculum" which has singing at the core as well as teaching the key musical concepts and themes which are developed and revisited across all year groups. These key skills can be broken down to:

- **Singing** and **playing** skills: exploring and singing a wide range of age-appropriate songs, working collaboratively as a class or in small groups to try our musical ideas, being aware of different musical roles and talking about music. Pitched and unpitched percussion are used throughout the school. Year

5 and 6 learn the cornet through whole class specialist teaching (with no costs to parents).

- **Listening** skills and knowledge about **genre/history/musicians**: exploring a range of musical styles and genres from around the world and different periods of music as well as recognising musical contrasts and structures.
- **Composition** and **improvisation** skills: giving pupils the freedom to explore their own creativity and make their own music – individually, in small or large groups, following a musical structure or rhythmic patterns, or trying out their own musical ideas.
- **Notation** skills: pupils create their own graphic symbols and notation, developing into following rhythmic and pitch notation, representing their own compositions with a mixture of graphic and standard notation.
- **Performing**: pupils are encouraged to perform, as a whole class, in small groups or as a solo. Year 5 and 6 pupils are encouraged to perform on their cornets in assemblies and in out of school concerts.

Music lessons are an important part of the broad and balanced curriculum at Northbourne and we strive to provide an exciting and varied musical experience for all our pupils.

Year 5 and 6 pupils work through the Brass to Gold booklet, produced by Deal Music and Arts and Bold As, receiving Brass, Silver and Gold awards upon completion.

Part B: 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.

Outside of the Music Curriculum, we currently offer:

Whole school singing each week

KS1 and KS2 Choir

Performance opportunities

If pupils request instrumental lessons at school, we can offer space for this to take place.

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.

At Northbourne, we are always looking for opportunities to enhance the musical experiences of our pupils.

Whole school singing is highly valued. We sing together every week – each time we meet for Collective Worship as well as dedicated weekly singing practice. The school choir regularly help to lead whole school singing, modelling good practice and leading the whole school in harmonies and two/three part singing.

At Christmas, EYFS and KS1 perform a Nativity to the parents, KS2 lead a carol service at the local church, with parents attending. This includes a choir performance, with solo and small group singing. The whole school perform a variety of Christmas songs to parents and visitors, with choir performing as part of the concert.

The Year 5 and 6 children are invited to take part in a concert at least once a year, which is organised by Deal, Music and Arts and Bold As. They prepare for this performance during their lessons and on special music days held by Bold As and a visiting musician. This is usually in a concert hall or large church and with a local orchestra, giving the opportunity for the children to participate in playing with an orchestra as well as listening to live orchestral music. This event is free for the children and parents are ticketed for the performance.

In school musical performances for the whole school have included visits from 'Bach to the Future', a group from the local Music hub (Kent Music) as well as a quartet from The Royal College of Music, facilitated through our link with Bold As.

In the future

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

Over the next academic year we aim to:

Further develop performance opportunities

Audit our music resources with a view to investing in further strengthening resources where needed

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how to get involved in music in and out of school, and where to go for support beyond the school.

Further information about [Kent Music](#) and what music support they can offer both in and out of school, as well as local music centres for children and young people.