

Music development plan summary: Parkside Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Jonathan Fenwick
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Steve Roe
Name of local music hub	Durham Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, extra-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.

- Students are taught music in year 7 and 9 once per fortnight and twice per fortnight in year 8. In years 10 and 11 students who have opted to study music receive 5 lessons per fortnight.
- Students in year 10 and 11 follow the Pearson BTEC specification and work closely with the curriculum music teacher and their instrumental or vocal teacher throughout the course.
- The school curriculum is based on the Model Music Curriculum and adapted based on the number of teaching hours available at key stage 3 as well as the experiences of students in feeder primary schools.
- Students principally learn to perform using the keyboard but also gain experience performing and learning ukulele, djembe, drum kit, guitar, and singing. Students learn to use software as part of the core curriculum i.e. Sibelius and Mixcraft.

- Students complete homework using Teaching Gadget – an online software programme which the music teacher can use to set quizzes and formative assessment tasks.
- Students who study instrumental or vocal lessons with a peripatetic teacher from Durham Music Service are encouraged to take graded examinations. These are taken through a range of providers e.g. ABRSM. The vast majority of students who take graded examinations choose to submit video performances.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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.

- Parkside Academy works closely with Durham Music Service to provide instrumental and vocal tuition beyond the curriculum.
- Individual and group lessons from Durham Music Service are funded by parents. Students who are eligible for the Pupil Premium fund are able to receive the full cost of music tuition through Durham Music Service paid by the school's fund.
- Students can join a range of extra-curricular ensembles including: Acoustic Band, Vocal Ensemble, Guitar Ensemble, and two Parkside Bands. Extra-curricular music takes place during the school day as well as after school.
- Ad hoc ensembles are created for school performances based on the strength and availability of musicians so that a wide number of students can participate.

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.

- There are multiple opportunities for performance and engagement with music beyond both curricula.
- Students at key stage 4 take part in an annual visit to Durham University Music Department where they engage in music writing workshops, presentations from lecturers, performances by university students, and tour the facilities. In key stage 4 students participate in a djembe drumming workshop to support their understanding of World Music.

- At key stage 3 students participate in an annual samba drumming workshop which is delivered practically. This opportunity is provided as a reward to different key stage 3 groups every year.
- Students currently perform twice per year in school concerts. At Christmas students perform for people in the local community who come into school e.g. from local care homes. During the summer term students perform for parents and friends as a celebration of the work they have completed with their peripatetic teachers. Both of these performances are free of charge.
- Students attend a song-writing and production workshop every year at New College Durham and students participate in Durham Music Service showcase performances in local venues e.g. Bishop Auckland Town Hall, Ushaw College.

In the future

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

- Parkside Academy hopes to develop the following: the number of students accessing instrumental/vocal tuition from Durham Music Service, the number of students progressing from key stage 3 music to key stage 4 BTEC, a further opportunity for a free in-school performance, further opportunities for students to perform to each other, and the number of ensembles offered as part of extra-curricular music.
- To seek further opportunities to participate in workshops provided by external professionals.
- To visit local concert halls and music organisations e.g. The Glasshouse.
- To ensure the music curriculum is designed in a way which best supports students to make the transition from primary to secondary and from key stage 3 to 4.

Further information

- Students who wish to sign up for instrumental or vocal lessons through Durham Music Service should sign up using the following link:
<https://www.durhammusic.org.uk/sign-up>
- If you wish to discuss instrumental or vocal lessons before signing up a taster session can be arranged through Mr. Fenwick (j.fenwick@parkside.org.uk).