



Sleights Church of England

(Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.

Music Development Plan Summary

September 2025

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	Scott Grason-Taylor
Name of local music hub	North Yorkshire Music Hub

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.

The teaching of Music at Sleights is underpinned by the ongoing development and acquisition of knowledge and skills. This development and acquisition occurs as a result of our own school's curriculum sequence and progression, which maps out the core knowledge and skills children need to be highly effective musicians. Lessons take place weekly, for at least one hour.

The delivery of music at Sleights is based on the Model (non-statutory) Music Curriculum (March 2021), supported by Charanga.

The children at Sleights will be provided with a curriculum offer for music designed to:

- support children to learn more and remember more through a deliberate, incremental and progressive music curriculum.
- identify crucial learning, which is placed in context and connected to other knowledge.
- gain a secure understanding of musical styles and composers.
- build on and develop music knowledge and skills in a well sequenced and structured progression across their time at Sleights.
- support children's acquisition and progressive understanding of substantive and disciplinary knowledge.

- support children in knowing and using confidently, a wide variety of musical terms.
- secure an understanding of the processes involved in improvising, composing and performing, through development of songs.
- equip every child with the practical opportunity to learn how to play an instrument, as part of a band, during their time in Key Stage Two.
- enable children to understand a range of musical skills, concepts and vocabulary, which can be used widely across the planned curriculum and beyond.

Implementation of our Music curriculum

Music is implemented at Sleights through:

- timetabled, high-quality lessons, which enable children with the time and opportunities to develop their music understanding and skills over time. The equivalent of one hour per week is allocated to music teaching, although this can be distributed across smaller sessions.
- high quality lessons, delivered with support of the 'Charanga' music scheme.
- specialist teaching sessions, including recorders, choir and wider opportunity music band, for full classes.
- the use of a progressive long term plan, which is organised so that children can build an increasing knowledge base of the music knowledge and skills.
- a half termly focus on an area of music development in Key Stage One, to equip children with the building blocks and understanding to effectively approach new learning across Key Stage Two.
- a termly focus on an area of music in Key Stage Two, which is supported by whole class band lessons, or learning and performing identified songs to sing.
- ongoing opportunities to acquire and apply declarative knowledge relating to music, including evaluating the work of others and understanding the process of composing your own piece.

In addition, a wide range of individual or small group lessons take place across the school week, where children engage in enrichment sessions to learn an instrument or are trained to sing.

Learning in music is recorded in a variety of ways, but primarily the work completed is practical, so videos and photographs are the most common approaches.

Our progression documents identify key milestones in relation to intended acquisition of knowledge and skills for each identified specialism. These milestones are grouped into Key Stage One, Lower Key Stage Two and Upper Key Stage Two. In Early Years, the progression is broken down into four groups, beginning at birth and concluding at the statutory Early Learning Goal.

Within each specialist area, knowledge is organised on our own planning to provide a clear progression, development and expectation. The specialist area is broken down into core elements, which have been sequenced on plans to detail progression. Staff use the progression documents and individual planning frameworks from Charanga to support lesson planning and delivery.

Implementation in Early Years

At Sleights, music begins in the Early Years, where children become familiar with songs and build an increasing confidence in well known nursery rhymes or music pieces. Using the expectations for music, set out in the Early Learning Goals, carefully identified curriculum intent for our Early Years' children recognises the incremental steps in knowledge and skill acquisition that is expected across our Pre-School and Reception classes. These areas focus on **being imaginative and expressive**.

In line with Early Learning Goals, by the end of Early Years, children will be able to:

- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

Children in Reception are supported to explore musicianship through the use of the BBC's Ten Pieces and the Charanga music scheme.

The focus and development of music skills in Early Years Foundation Stage ensures that, before children embark on their Key Stage One journey, they have already acquired a secure understanding of early music.

Implementation in Key Stage One

Building on the understanding of music gained in Early Years, children across Key Stage One develop an increasing knowledge of:

- using their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.
- playing tuned and untuned instruments musically.
- listening, with concentration and understanding, to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.
- experimenting with, creating, selecting and combining sounds using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Six units of music are completed in Key Stage One each year. The school's long term plan works on a Year A and B cycle. This enables children to build breadth and depth of crucial early music building blocks, in order for them to continue learning successfully in Key Stage Two.

Implementation in Key Stage Two

Across Key Stage Two, children are taught to:

- play and perform in solo and ensemble contexts, using their voices and playing musical instruments with increasing accuracy, fluency, control and expression.
- improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music.
- listen with attention to detail and recall sounds with increasing aural memory.
- use and understand staff and other musical notations.
- appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians.

- develop an understanding of the history of music.

Building on children's acquired knowledge of music and related skills, in Key Stage Two at Sleights, children begin learning an instrument, as part of whole class tuition. These sessions are completed alongside planning units for music. Alongside the full year of instrument tuition, children in Key Stage Two complete three taught Charanga units and learn identified songs (linked to wider curriculum and history eras being studied).

As some of our classes in Key Stage Two are mixed age, our curriculum design is reviewed annually, to ensure that children are provided with ongoing, progressive learning opportunities in music.

Implementation: Supporting pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disability

Ensuring access to the curriculum for all children, regardless of background, special educational need and/or disability is an essential aspect of teaching and learning at Sleights. Our approach to the curriculum for children with special educational need(s) and/or disabilities aims to ensure that children with differences are able to learn about a subject, remain focused, manage and complete tasks with a sense of achievement, whilst also being challenged.

This will be supported and achieved through a range of ways, including:

- Additional repetition of learning to support embedding the knowledge (to help the children to remember the knowledge).
- Repetition tasks take the form of retrieval tasks and activities, in addition to learning the same information in different ways over several lessons.
- A wider range of practical activities in the curriculum to support children's individual needs, including a range of recording methods.
- Reading differentiated to support lower-level readers.
- A range of practical resources and support tools to enable access to the curriculum.

For more on our curriculum offer for music, please visit our curriculum website page, which can be found here: [Music at Sleights](#)

Part B: Co-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.

Sleights has a very strong relationship with the North Yorkshire Music Service and, in particular, the Whitby Music Centre. As a result, many pupils enjoy a range of individual and group instrument tuition sessions each week. These include:

- Individual or small group tuition for piano, singing, guitar, woodwind and brass (available from Year 1) These sessions are fully funded for our Pupil Premium children.
- Small group recorder lessons (available at no cost from Key Stage Two)

- Whole class music lessons, through the wider opportunity bands, for all children in Key Stage Two. The school does not charge any cost for the hire of instruments, or music tuition.

In addition to these music sessions, children also benefit from a range of additional opportunities. For example, we are proud to have several school bands, including one which meets weekly after school. Pupils also enjoy weekly choir sessions in Upper Key Stage Two. The standard and outcomes for both of these groups are very high. There is no charge to pupils for either of these additional opportunities.

Children at Sleights are also encouraged and do attend Saturday music centre sessions at the Whitby Music Centre. Throughout the year, the school band also performs at the Whitby Music Centre termly concerts.

The school also has links with various local agencies, including the Musician's Trust, in order to support children in obtaining instruments on loan, or significantly reduced costs. The school has a long term and well-established relationship with Bob Butterfield, Gillian Edwards, Sue Rowland and Nigel Stanton, who all lead and support music opportunities in the area, including the Whitby Music Centre. Our school and children continue to benefit from the wide ranging, rich opportunities these professionals provide.

Pupils are supported and able to rehearse music around the school during free time. The school has a range of spaces to support this.

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.

To provide pupils with an opportunity to showcase and celebrate their musical achievements, ongoing and regular opportunities for performance are included in our plans.

- Singing happens regularly in assembly. These songs are chosen to reflect traditional hymns and songs, particularly to reflect our Church school status, but also respond to some of children's interests or choices. Each term, we hold at least one service in Church. Children enjoy the opportunity to sing as part of these services, in a packed St John's Church.
- Each term, the school bands and recorder players perform in Church. During the year, it is always very evident to see the significant progress children make from one performance to the next.
- Each term, every class carries out a performance. This includes Pre-School children. This can vary from sharing a song, poem, story or artwork, but begins to instil the confidence and understanding of performance from the earliest possible opportunity.

- Children from across school perform to members of our community, including elderly neighbours who, at Christmas, enjoy Carols from the children.
- The school holds a very popular and always very well attended annual celebration of music event each summer. This is an opportunity for every child to perform. These performances include pieces practised and rehearsed as part of activities in school, but also include children's work from outside of school, including self-composition. This is always a very special showcase!

Families at Sleights really support our musical showcases and attend regularly (and on mass) to encourage children.

In addition to these in school performances, children also enjoy taking part in the Eskdale Festival – a local, well established competitive celebration of music and the arts. Children enjoy the performances and receive positive praise and support for their efforts. All children in the school bands take part in this competition. Music is inclusive at Sleights. The school pays the entrance fees for the competition, to ensure that money is no barrier to performance.

Each year, the children at Sleights also enjoy a performance from North Yorkshire Council teachers, who showcase some of the musical instruments available to learn during the year.

We also enjoy music when the children arrive to school or in assembly. Varied, intentionally selected pieces of music play as children arrive to school or assembly. These share a variety of styles and genres of music, which children and families give incidental opinions on. The conversation about music at Sleights is ongoing.

The children at Sleights enjoy taking part in the 'Big Sing'. This is an annual celebration of singing which takes place for children in Key Stage Two, with a range of other local primary schools. This is a free event to pupils.

In the future

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

- The class structure of Key Stage Two this year has lead to us working in a different way with tuition, opting for smaller groups, rather than full class. This leads to a more focused teaching and learning experience.
- Explore further opportunities for celebrating music across our school partnership – the Yorkshire Coast Education Partnership.
- Continue to provide rehearsal spaces for pupils in free time.
- Sustain the well established music bands across Key Stage Two, including dialogue with the newly established secondary school to consider how these primary starting points could be developed further.