

# Music development plan summary: *Paston Ridings Primary School*

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	<b>2025/26</b>
Date this summary was published	<b>December 2025</b>
Date this summary will be reviewed	<b>December 2026</b>
Name of the school music lead	<b>Alexandra Mills and Jess Nixon</b>
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	<b>Sophie Ross</b>
Name of local music hub	<b>Peterborough Music Hub</b>
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	<b>Rocksteady</b>

This Music Development Plan Summary outlines how Paston Ridings Primary School delivers high-quality music education across curriculum music, co-curricular opportunities, and musical experiences, as well as our plans for strengthening provision in future years. The information supports pupils and families in understanding the breadth of our music offer and the partnerships that enhance it.

## 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.

At Paston Ridings Primary School, we believe in providing a broad, ambitious and joyful music curriculum that inspires creativity and excellence in every child. Our music provision is rooted in the ethos of Paston Ridings Primary School, reflecting the values of aspiration, pride, collaboration, resilience and kindness that guide all aspects of our school life. It is also shaped by the overarching questions that guide our wider curriculum: *What makes us who we are? How does adversity inspire courage and creative possibilities? and In an ever-changing world, how can the choices we make have an impact?* These themes help pupils use music as a means of self-discovery, emotional expression and cultural understanding.

Music is taught through a practical, enquiry-based approach and is carefully planned and sequenced within each year group's learning journey. Our curriculum follows our Music Knowledge and Skills Map, ensuring that pupils develop musical understanding progressively over time and in alignment with the National Curriculum and Model Music Curriculum. Lessons combine exploration, performance and creative composition, enabling children to experiment with tuned and untuned percussion, digital tools such as GarageBand and micro:bits, and a wide range of musical styles and genres. Weekly whole-school Singing assemblies provides every pupil with at least 15 minutes of structured singing, strengthening their vocal skills and sense of community. Lessons are delivered by class teachers and, in some year groups, by specialist music practitioners to ensure high-quality teaching.

We are committed to inclusion, and all pupils, including those with SEND, access the full curriculum through scaffolding, adapted resources and accessible performance opportunities. Progress is monitored through pupil discussions, class books, teacher observations, assessment for learning and weekly knowledge quizzes, all of which demonstrate increasing confidence, musical literacy and secure understanding of key vocabulary from Year 1 to Year 6.

A key highlight of our curriculum is the whole-class instrumental teaching in Year 3, delivered by specialist musicians from Peterborough Music Hub. Every child learns the ukulele using loaned instruments and performs in an end-of-term concert, giving families the opportunity to celebrate their progress. Our music curriculum also places strong emphasis on listening and appreciation, ensuring pupils are exposed to a rich diversity of musical traditions, genres and cultures.

Through this approach, pupils develop strong performance skills, secure musical knowledge and a deep appreciation for the role of music in society, enabling them to grow into confident, empathetic and expressive individuals. For more information, please visit our music curriculum page:

<https://www.pastonridingschool.co.uk/learning-pages/music>

## 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.

At Paston Ridings Primary School, we are committed to offering a rich and vibrant co-curricular music programme that enables all children to develop their musical skills beyond the classroom. Weekly singing assemblies play a central role in this provision, giving pupils the opportunity to learn and perform a wide repertoire of songs which are then showcased to our wider community in termly performances at our local church. To further extend musical learning, we provide a range of instrumental tuition options. Through our partnership with Rocksteady, pupils can access individual and small-group lessons in vocals, drums, guitar and keyboard, taught on-site. While these lessons are parent-funded, we proudly subsidise two places each year to ensure that Pupil Premium pupils have full access to this opportunity.

Our long-standing partnership with Peterborough Music Hub further enhances our co-curricular offer through their whole-class instrumental programme for Year 3. Pupils receive ukulele tuition using loaned instruments, led by a specialist teacher, and their learning culminates in an end-of-term concert where they perform for their families.

Performance opportunities extend to our youngest learners as well. Each year, children in EYFS take part in a Federation Christmas Nativity at Peterborough Cathedral, where they sing and perform alongside pupils from our wider school community. This provides an aspirational yet supportive setting in which early musical confidence can flourish.

We are proud that our choir attends and performs in the yearly Young Voices concert. With 6000 children and artists, this is an excellent experience for 30 children at Paston Ridings.

In recognition of our commitment to high-quality music education and inclusive access, Paston Ridings Primary School was awarded the Music Mark Recognition Award in 2025 by Peterborough Music Hub. We are proud to uphold their vision of ensuring that all children and young people can experience meaningful musical and social outcomes through a diverse and enriching co-curricular programme.

## 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 Paston Ridings Primary School, pupils experience a rich variety of musical opportunities throughout the year, enabling them to perform, listen to live music, collaborate with others and connect with the wider community. Our key musical experiences include:

### Performance Opportunities

- Termly Rocksteady band concerts where pupils perform for families and peers
- Year 3 instrumental concerts each term, showcasing progress from whole-class trumpet teaching
- Weekly singing assembly, culminating in a termly whole-school singing celebration
- Year 6 Shakespeare production, which incorporates singing and musical elements performed for the whole school community
- EYFS Federation Nativity at Peterborough Cathedral, featuring ensemble singing and storytelling for families
- Weekly Choir, culminating in termly concerts and singing at Young Voices

### Live Music and Enrichment Experiences

- Rocksteady Recruitment Days, giving 20 pupils the chance to take part in band workshops across one day
- Year 1 trip to The New Theatre to watch Peterborough Music Hub's live performance of *The Snowman*
- Visits from musicians and music specialists who support workshops and performances
- Weekly Choir, culminating in termly concerts and singing at Young Voices yearly.

### Community Engagement

- Annual carol-singing visit to a local care home, giving pupils the opportunity to share music with the wider community

- Performances at federation events

These carefully planned experiences ensure every child at Paston Ridings Primary School has the opportunity to engage in meaningful, memorable musical moments that nurture confidence, creativity and a lifelong appreciation of music.

## In the future

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

In future years, Paston Ridings Primary School aims to continue strengthening and expanding its music provision so that every child can flourish musically from Reception through to Year 6. Building on the strong foundation of our current curriculum and informed by our Music Knowledge and Skills Progression Map, we plan to further enhance opportunities for pupils to sing, play, compose and experience music at increasing levels of depth and sophistication. The following priorities will guide our continued development.

### **Expanding Access to Instruments and Practical Music-Making**

We plan to introduce a wider range of instruments across the school by establishing a shared federation-wide instrument bank. This will allow pupils to explore more diverse timbres and playing techniques as they move through the curriculum, supporting progression in line with our skills framework- from early sound exploration in EYFS to improvisation, notation and ensemble performance in Key Stage 2. This expansion will also support future whole-class ensemble teaching in additional year groups.

### **Developing Opportunities for Progression Beyond the Classroom**

We aim to provide further pathways for young musicians to continue their musical journey outside the school day, including additional instrument tuition options, rehearsal clubs, composition workshops and increased access to local ensemble opportunities offered through Peterborough Music Hub. We will explore weekend or holiday provision and seek additional funding routes to remove barriers for disadvantaged pupils.

### **Strengthening Provision for Pupils with SEND**

Using our progression map and building on our experience as a specialist hub, we will further develop a dedicated SEND music curriculum that incorporates sensory music-making, accessible digital tools, and therapeutic approaches. This will ensure that pupils with SEND can make meaningful musical progress and experience the joy of music in ways that reflect their individual strengths and needs.

### **Further Increasing Access and Equity for Pupil Premium Pupils**

We will continue to expand fully funded musical opportunities for Pupil Premium pupils, including instrument lessons, participation in ensembles, and enrichment experiences such as live performances and workshops. Our aim is to remove all financial obstacles that may limit a child's musical potential.

## **Strengthening the Curriculum Offer in Line with National Expectations**

We will continue to align our music curriculum with the seven features of high-quality music education by:

- Exploring ways to adjust our curriculum music provision so that it more closely aligns with the National Plan for Music Education's aspiration for one hour per week across all terms, while ensuring that any changes support the integrity and balance of our broader learning journey.
- Embedding new instruments into classroom teaching as pupils progress
- Further developing singing across the curriculum and increasing opportunities for part-singing and harmony in Key Stage 2
- Ensuring a termly music performance for each year group, showcasing progression in composition, ensemble work and vocal performance
- Embedding more opportunities for pupils to compose and share their own music, building on skills outlined in our progression map
- Extending digital music-making, including use of GarageBand, micro:bits and Chromebooks
- Providing further professional development for staff to deepen subject knowledge and confidence

## **Enhancing Musical Experiences and Community Engagement**

We plan to broaden the range of live music experiences, inviting more visiting musicians into school and expanding partnerships with local arts organisations. We will continue to strengthen community engagement through performances at local venues, such as the church, care homes, and federation events, and explore additional public performance opportunities for older pupils.

## **Further information**

At Paston Ridings Primary School, our music provision is strengthened by the partnerships we hold with external organisations who share our commitment to high-quality, inclusive music education. Our collaboration with **Peterborough Music Hub** plays a central role in both our curriculum and co-curricular offer, providing specialist teaching, instrumental loan schemes and performance opportunities for our pupils. Their local plan for music education, published from September 2024, outlines how they support schools and communities across the region and can be accessed here: <https://peterboroughmusichub.org.uk/>

We also work closely with **Rocksteady Music School**, who enhance our offer through instrumental and ensemble tuition, helping us ensure that pupils of all backgrounds, including those eligible for Pupil Premium and pupils with SEND, can access high-quality musical experiences.

<https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

Parents and carers who wish to explore wider opportunities for their children can refer to the **Department for Education's guide on getting involved in music**, which provides information on activities in and beyond school, as well as routes into further support and training:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people>

Together, these partnerships and resources support our vision of ensuring that every child at Paston Ridings Primary has access to inspiring, enriching and sustainable music education.