

Music development plan summary: Southlands School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	1/9/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1/9/2027
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Christine Marsh
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	N/A
Name of local music hub	North Tyneside Music HUB
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

At Southlands School, students participate in a carousel of Expressive Arts subjects - Music and Drama, alongside two Technology subjects: Food Technology and Design Technology. These subjects are delivered through a nine-week rotation throughout the academic year, providing students with sufficient time to develop key knowledge, understanding, and practical skills in each area.

Lessons are taught in 100-minute sessions (two 50-minute periods), allowing adequate time to introduce new concepts, engage in creative activities, and complete outcomes within a single week. This format also enables staff to incorporate movement breaks and provide additional support where required, ensuring all students can access learning effectively.

In Music, the focus is on developing students' interpersonal and social skills through practical music-making activities. These are essential lifelong skills that support

success in adulthood. Throughout their music education, students develop creativity, problem-solving abilities, collaboration, resilience, perseverance, and the ability to give and receive constructive feedback.

At **Key Stage 3**, students develop these skills through a wide range of musical experiences, including singing, dancing, songwriting, composing with music technology, learning and performing on instruments, listening to and analysing music, and participating in ensemble performances. These activities encourage students to express themselves creatively, build confidence, and develop an enjoyment of the arts.

We also offer a **Semi-Formal Curriculum** for students within our semi-formal provision. This curriculum focuses on communication, engagement with sound, and responsive interaction through music. Programmes are carefully tailored to meet the individual needs of students and are informed by the developmental framework of **Sounds of Intent**.

At **Key Stage 4**, students follow the **Arts Award** programme at Entry Level 3, Level 1, and Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE-level study). Developed by Trinity College London, Arts Award was designed to provide a creative and inclusive framework through which young people can explore and celebrate their personal journey within the arts. Within Music, students can choose to specialise in **Instrumental Performance** or **Music Technology** in Year 10, followed by **Film Making** in Year 11. These pathways offer a broad range of opportunities, enabling students to engage with the creative industries in ways that suit their interests and strengths, whether they prefer performing or working behind the scenes.

Our annual school production, delivered in collaboration with Drama, alongside the creation of the school album, provides students with meaningful opportunities to showcase their talents and contribute at a level that feels comfortable and rewarding. These projects involve a wide variety of roles, including stage management, acting, singing, sound engineering, media production, and lighting design, fostering teamwork, responsibility, and a sense of achievement.

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.

Instrumental music tuition is delivered as part of the school curriculum, ensuring that all students have access to practical music-making opportunities within their timetabled lessons. To support independent learning and skill development, students are provided with access to online resources through **Musical Futures Online**. In addition, the

music room is available during breaktimes and lunchtimes, allowing students to practise, explore their musical interests, and develop their skills further.

Over time, we have expanded our extracurricular music provision to offer students a wider range of opportunities beyond the classroom. These have included an after-school band, singing group, and violin tuition, with trumpet tuition being introduced this year. These activities provide valuable opportunities for students to develop confidence, collaborate with others, and experience music in a more specialised setting.

We also work closely with students and families to raise awareness of music opportunities available within the wider community. Where appropriate, students are signposted to local programmes that match their interests, abilities, and support needs, while also providing opportunities to build friendships and develop a sense of belonging. These opportunities include HUB Saturday groups and midweek youth ensembles, which students can access with family support.

As part of our commitment to community engagement, we have established an annual tradition of performing Christmas carols in support of charitable causes. These performances provide students with the opportunity to contribute positively to their community while demonstrating the school's values of inclusion, kindness, and social responsibility.

During the academic year, students have the opportunity to participate in two major performances. The first is our **Christmas Show**, a celebration of student talent that showcases a wide range of musical and creative achievements. This event provides students with a platform to share their skills, build confidence, and perform in front of an audience.

The second is our **annual Summer Production**, delivered in collaboration with the Drama department. Previous productions have included *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Cinderella*, *Tales of War*, and *Bugsy Malone*. For this year's production, students in Year 11 Arts Award have decided to create an adaptation of *Little Shop of Horrors*. This collaborative process encourages student voice and ownership while providing meaningful opportunities to develop performance, production, and teamwork skills.

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.

Students in **Key Stage 3 and 4** benefit from attending up to two fully funded professional performances each year, thanks to the continued support of the Senior Leadership Team. These experiences enrich the curriculum by exposing students to a diverse range of high-quality live performances and creative practitioners. In recent

years, we have developed partnerships with a variety of professional organisations and performers, including circus companies, Opera North Orchestra, and Musicians Live, providing students with unique opportunities to engage with the arts beyond the classroom.

We are committed to supporting students to participate confidently in large-scale performances and collaborative music-making experiences. A notable example was our involvement in **The Big Gig 2025** at the Vertu Arena, where students joined hundreds of young people from mainstream and specialist schools across the region in a large-scale sing-and-play event featuring ten musical performances. The event provided an inspiring and inclusive environment, enabling students to perform as part of a wider community while developing confidence, teamwork, and a sense of achievement. It was an extremely positive experience for all involved, and we look forward to participating again in future events.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch a **Makaton Choir**, providing an additional opportunity for students to develop communication skills through music and performance while promoting inclusion and accessibility across the school community.

The **Arts Award** programme plays a significant role in enabling students to create and perform work for their own community. The course celebrates the diverse talents, interests, and creative strengths of our students while placing student voice at the centre of the creative process. Students are actively involved in every stage of development, from generating initial ideas and planning performances to evaluating outcomes. This collaborative approach helps students gain valuable experience in teamwork, leadership, decision-making, and creative problem-solving.

To ensure that all families can access and enjoy these opportunities, performances and productions are provided free of charge to parents and carers. This reflects our commitment to inclusion and ensures that financial circumstances do not present a barrier to celebrating student achievement and participation in the arts.

In the future

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

Our involvement in the **Orchestras for All Modulo Project** during 2025-26 has been highly inspiring and has highlighted the potential for developing a wider SEND music network within our local community. As a result, we are exploring opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from Woodlawn, Silverdale, and other North Tyneside schools to create inclusive, in-school performance experiences where students can rehearse and perform together. This initiative will be further developed throughout the

current academic year, with the aim of increasing access to collaborative music-making opportunities for young people with SEND.

We are also excited about the potential development of a **Makaton Choir** during the 2026-27 academic year. This project will provide students with an additional platform for creative expression while promoting communication, inclusion, and confidence through music and performance.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our use of **music technology** by introducing opportunities for students to explore film and video game scoring. As new technology and resources become available, students will be able to develop skills in composing and producing music for visual media. By the end of 2027, we aim to support students in creating original soundtracks for film clips and game sequences of their choice, further enhancing their engagement with the arts and developing valuable digital and creative skills. The use of cloud-based music technology platforms will also enable students to continue their creative work beyond the classroom and, where appropriate, from home.

Our annual school album will continue to provide students with an authentic platform to showcase their musical achievements. Due to copyright regulations, performances of copyrighted material will remain limited in their distribution. However, students' original compositions and creative projects will be shared through approved school channels, including YouTube, Facebook, and other authorised media platforms, allowing us to celebrate and promote student creativity with the wider community.

Further information (optional)

North Tyneside Music Education HUB [North Tyneside Music](#)

Orchestras For All [Orchestras for All](#)

Musical Futures Online [Home | Musical Futures Online](#)

Arts Award [Arts Award](#)