Music development plan summary:
Hexham Middle School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	Nov 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Laura Tindall
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Danielle Horrocks
Name of local music hub	Northumberland Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

Part A – the music curriculum.

'Everyone has a lifelong right to fulfilment through music'

Curriculum structure

KS2

All students in years 5 and 6 have one hour of Music per week and engage in a curriculum where the key components of listening and appraising, performing and composing are taught. The curriculum is interwoven with ongoing opportunities to practise performance skills, basic notation and musical elements.

Pupils are encouraged to describe how music makes them feel, as well as participating in full-class singing and playing, for example, the ukulele and keyboards.

KS3

All students in years 7 and 8 have one hour of Music per week and engage in a curriculum where the key components of listening and appraising, performing and composing are taught. The curriculum is interwoven with ongoing opportunities to practise performance skills, notation, musical elements and composition devices within a given context, for example, Hooks and Riffs, Rhythm and Pulse.

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Students have the opportunity to incorporate the playing of their own instrument/voice, thereby always giving stretch and challenge opportunities to the more able and those who have additional lessons.

Part B – musical involvement – instrumental / vocal lessons and ensembles

Instrumental lessons

Current data

We offer lessons in the following instruments/voice taught by visiting specialist teachers:

piano; singing; flute; saxophone; clarinet; guitar; bass guitar; drum kit; trumpet; trombone; tuba; euphonium; violin, accordion, harp.

Approximately 80 students at HMS have instrumental or vocal lessons. These are paid for directly by the parent to the teacher, or in the case of PP students, parents can apply to the Student Support Fund for help with the cost of lessons. PP+ students have their lessons entirely funded.

Ambition for 2026 and how we are addressing this

While the number of students having instrumental/vocal lessons in school is slightly down on the previous year, the ambition remains that 10% of the school population (approx. 130 students) have instrumental or vocal lessons. This will happen through continuous promotion of lessons in curriculum lessons and in assemblies as well as throughout the year on the school's social media pages, parent newsletter and in the summer term to new, incoming students.

The reduction in funding from PP students has had a knock-on effect as well as it being a concern of pupils that they 'miss curriculum lessons' and as a result, a significant number of students source tuition elsewhere, for example, at Core Music or with a private tutor.

PP funding

Parents can now apply for funding through the school's Pupil Support Fund. PP+ students' lessons continue to be funded.

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Ensembles

There is a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities as well as some which are cross-trust and therefore are open to both pupils from HMS and QEHS. These are run by Music staff and Peripatetic Music staff:

-String Ensemble (QEHS/HMS)

-Show Choir (QEHS/HMS)

-Orchestra (QEHS/HMS)

-Northumbrian Pipes (QEHS/HMS)

-HMS Singers (HMS)

-Drum Line (HMS)

-BandCamp (HMS – paid for, tbc)

2026-2027 opportunity

The hope for this year is that the ensembles listed above continue to go from strength to strength.

The school continues to fund the provision of these ensembles, for example, in hiring in the leaders of the groups who are peripatetic staff.

PART C Musical Performances

Summary of 2025-2026

There was the continuation of the tradition of two music concerts per year, one in Winter and one in Summer. We also held a Talent Show and Vocal/Instrumental Showcases for KS2 and KS3.

The music concerts involve a range of extra-curricular groups and soloists and would taking place in the HMS Hall and QEHS Hall to large audiences. This year also saw the inclusion of more QEHS parents at the concerts given the nature of the joint groups.

There have been additional performance opportunities for QEHS students, for example, at the HMS Christmas Carol Service at Hexham Abbey (Dec 2025), Hexham Christmas Lights Switch-On (Nov 2025) and at visits to local care homes.

We also hosted Samling Institute for a taster session with QEHS/HMS singers and a performance by Samling artists. Further meetings took place in which they invited

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QEHS to become a Samling Singing School, meaning that we will receive further tuition and input from Samling in the next academic year.

Ambition for 2026-2027 and beyond

The ambition for 2026-27 and beyond is to continue raising the profile of Music at HMS through a high-profile concert, in Spring/Summer, as well as the return of the Talent Show.

The Music Department is keen to get music into the community more, for example, showcasing performances at external events and venues.