

Thinking Schools Academy Trust “Transforming Life Chances”

New Horizons Primary School



Music Development Plan

Music Development Plan Summary: New Horizons Primary School

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	Matthew Gudgeon
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Hannah Powell
Name of local music hub	Portsmouth Music Hub
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 events – 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.

Music is highly valued at New Horizons Primary. It can have an amazing impact on a child's well-being, it builds a sense of community and gives children a sense of belonging and purpose. Music boosts self-discipline and self-esteem and in turn improves standards across all other curriculum subjects. This was recognised in our recently awarded Silver Artsmark which highlighted our commitment to the arts in school.

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 New Horizons Primary, music is taught in a dedicated music room with a wide range of tuned and percussion instruments. Music lessons take place once a week and children across both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 participate in singing assemblies weekly. Across the academic year, children follow a comprehensive scheme that focuses on the skills of appraising, composing, improvising and performing, whilst teachers make links to musical themes and knowledge across a range of subjects and lessons.

Music lessons are well-resourced and planned with teachers receiving continued training on how to provide Quality First teaching, building on their own confidence in the subject. Outcomes for the children are continually assessed by the teachers and adapted where necessary. With a range of instruments, including (but not limited to): electric guitars, bass guitars, a full drum kit, ukuleles and glockenspiels, it is our aim to ensure that children are

inspired and engaged to do well and participate in an area of music. The school is also uses the Portsmouth Music Service song bank, which provides a range of quality songs from a variety of genres to accompany events such as assemblies and performances.

It is our aim that the music curriculum at New Horizons Primary is accessible to all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND). Teaching Assistants are deployed effectively to support these children whilst different coping methods are embedded in both staff and pupils to ensure that all children have the opportunity access the curriculum and to be successful.

Across the year, New Horizons Primary we take part in many of the activities on offer from Portsmouth Music Hub, including live concerts and opportunities for the children to perform at different venues across the city.

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.

New Horizons Primary school has a choir made up of children from Key Stage 2, they meet weekly after school. The choir learn new songs and rehearse for performances to the wider school, parents and community throughout the year.

There is a New Horizons music band where children learn and perform a range of songs of their choice using a variety of tuned and percussion instruments. This is run after school and lead by our music lead. New Horizons also offers a ukulele club once a week during lunchtime.

We have a peripatetic music teacher who works in the school twice a week to provide instrumental tuition to pupils, including the opportunity to work towards music grades, this is a service that is optional and paid for by parents/carers.

Part C: Musical events

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 New Horizons Primary we offer musical events across all year groups, these include but are not limited to:

Early Years – Perform in a nativity at Christmas

Year One – All children take part in the Infant Voices Festival with a select group of children performing at the Portsmouth Guildhall

Year Two – Perform a range of Christmas carols to parents/carers

Year Three – Perform songs about Portsmouth to parents/carers in a topic celebration assembly

Year Two/Three – A mixture of children from year two and three also are selected to attend an annual ‘Music in the Round’ concert at the Guildhall

Year Four – All children take part in Songscape festival with a select group of children performing at The New Theatre Royal

Year Five – Perform songs about Harvest to parents/carers in a Harvest assembly, members of the local church also join us for this celebration

Year Six – Perform an end of year musical to the school and to parents/carers

In the future

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

Moving forward in the subsequent years, it is our vision that at New Horizons Primary, music continues to compliment our rich and engaging curriculum whilst inspiring children to take their love of music beyond the core teaching and learning time.

Some of the plans and features we would like to implement are as follows:

- Termly live performances for the after-school ‘rock band’ to both parents and other students
- A range of performance opportunities both in school and the public sector for the choir club
- Launch and implementation of a lunchtime ukulele club
- Opportunities for every year group to see a live music performance, once each academic year
- Continued professional development for teaching staff to increase confidence and capability in delivering our music scheme
- Creation of our own music curriculum, based on the foundations of the current ‘Charanga’ scheme
- Collaboration with music company ‘Rocksteady’ to provide disadvantaged students with an opportunity to access experiences they might not otherwise
- Increased lesson time for music and continued improvement of musical resources and instruments
- Integration of music and technology, allowing children to record their compositions, seeing further links to a career in music

Further information

Link to [Portsmouth Music Hub](#)

The hub have an excellent bank of songs on their website many of which we use in school.

Children are able to access these from home. [Song Source Home — Portsmouth Music Hub](#)