



# New Horizons Children's Academy

## MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2025-2026

**New Horizons Children's Academy**

Part of Thinking School's Academy Trust



CHILD FIRST - ASPIRE - CHALLENGE - ACHIEVE



## New Horizons Children's Academy

### Music Development Plan Summary

At New Horizons Children's Academy, our vision is for all children to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together. We do this through providing learning opportunities to develop an appreciation of music. They will experiment with both aspects of being an artist, developing communication and self-confidence skills through individual expression.

This means that all children:

- Engage in timetabled music lessons
- Have the opportunity to learn a range of musical instruments
- Have access to be a part of the school bands
- Have access to the school choir
- Have opportunities to perform to the school stakeholders
- Have opportunities to perform outside of school to the local community
- Have opportunity to enjoy live performances
- Contribute to Trust-wide events annually

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	Miss E Xavier-Cope
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Kent Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rocksteady Andrew Parry Music



## Part A: Curriculum music

At New Horizons Children's Academy, we use Charanga's Model Music Curriculum for all of our music lessons. This scheme is aligned with the National Curriculum for Music and the non-statutory Model Music Curriculum (MMC) Guidance published by the DfE in 2021.

This Scheme provides clearly-sequenced units and lessons with week-by-week support for each year group. There are lesson plans, assessment documentation, a clear learning progression, as well as engaging and exciting songs and resources to support every lesson.

The Scheme follows a spiral approach to musical learning, with children revisiting, building and extending their knowledge and skills incrementally. In this manner, their learning is consolidated and augmented, increasing musical confidence and enabling them to go further. Teachers can adapt their teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of the children they teach.

The MMC Scheme is suitable for children aged 5–11, with six self-sufficient units per year. Each unit is structured into six steps. The first step of each unit introduces that unit's focus in terms of content, skills and knowledge; the middle steps then develop this, and the final, sixth step assesses the learning through exciting performances and activities.

At the centre of each step – each lesson – is a song around which the musical learning is centred. Each lesson has an easy-to-follow structure, complemented by an array of supporting documents, lesson plans and resources that take you through listening, singing, performing, composing and improvising exercises with the children.

## Part B: Extra-curricular Music

At New Horizons Children's Academy, as well as the music curriculum that is taught weekly, we have a wide range of opportunities for children to have music tuition from experts. We work in partnership with Kent-Music who provide whole class lessons instrumental lessons and staff CPD. Andrew Parry Music provide small group and individual instrumental lessons in keyboard, bass guitar, vocals and drums.

Alongside this, we work with a company called Rocksteady who provide our band lessons to children of any age, giving the children opportunity to form bands. The instruments taught are drums, bass guitar, guitar, keyboard and vocals. Under the guidance of the Rocksteady music



teacher, the children rehearse weekly, leading up to end of term concerts. This gives the children opportunity to perform to a live audience three times during the academic year.

Each year children perform what they have learnt to an audience in school and at some school events.

We have a school choir who are given opportunity to be part of the external and internal performances that we hold. The children in the choir also have the opportunity to take part in Young Voices, which is held annually at the O2 Arena in London. This gives our children the opportunity to perform to a much wider audience with thousands of other children from schools across the country.

## Part C: Musical performances

Over the coming year we will continue to offer all of same the experiences as previous years, ensuring that we consider subsidised and or free tuition where necessary.

The choir will attend Young Voices and perform within the local community. Years 3 and 4 will also be participating in the English National Opera's Finish This... Project, which is a free, nationwide music-making programme that blends opera, film, and animation. Students step into the role of ENO (English National Opera) Composers to creatively complete unfinished operatic pieces—exploring music, text, and themes like colour and nature.

All children are given opportunity to experience whole class singing through the singing assemblies that take place weekly.

All children, whether playing an instrument, singing, or in a band will get the chance to widen the audiences that they perform to this year. We will be showcasing the musical talents throughout the school across all year groups with performances. Children will have specific time to rehearse and practice and will be allocated spaces to perform at our school events including the Summer Fete.

## In the future

At New Horizons Children's Academy, we believe that all children, regardless of background, should have access to a high-quality music education. To ensure this happens we are



committed to delivering high quality classroom teaching, embedding the high standards set by the national curriculum, as exemplified by the Model Music Curriculum.

Through our music development plan, we will continue to engage with the partnerships that we have built, and look to further increase the offer that we currently have to allow for all children to experience music and performances in a variety of events.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we work collaboratively with the schools across our trust to share talents and musical experts. As we develop, we will build on the links we have and look for further opportunities to share performances with them and use the facilities they have to offer. The strong links will allow us to share children's musical talents as they transition from Primary to Secondary and promote the continuation of their music education.