

The new National Plan for Music Education

It replaces the original plan published in 2011 and contains an updated vision:

‘To enable all children and young people to learn to sing, play an instrument and create music together, and have the opportunity to progress their musical interests, including professionally’

It is non-Statutory and sits alongside the Model Music Curriculum published last year.

There is a strong narrative about musical progression through school into a life-long appreciation of and/or career in music.

The plan sets out 3 goals for music education:

1. All children and young people receive a high-quality music education in the early years and in schools
(Chapter 1, which focuses on the role of schools/early years provision)
2. All music educators to work in partnership with children and young people’s needs and interests at their heart
(Chapter 2, which focuses on the role of Hub Partnerships)
3. All children and young people with musical interests and talents to have the opportunity to progress their interests and potential, including professionally
(Chapter 3, which focusses on progression routes)



What is expected of schools?

The plan highlights that a high-quality curriculum should be supported by co-curricular learning and additional musical experiences.

It sets out key features of high-quality music provision the DfE would like to see in every school:

- Timetabled music curriculum lessons of at least one hour per week throughout the school year Key Stage 1-3
- Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- A school choir and/or vocal ensemble
- A school ensemble, band or group
- Space for rehearsals and individual practice
- A termly school performance
- Opportunity for pupils to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The plan also includes expectations that:

- Music is to be represented in every school's leadership structure.
- Schools should write a Music Development Plan outlining the curricular and co-curricular offer and setting out how it will be staffed and funded.
- Multi-Academy Trusts will be expected to develop trust-wide Music Development Plans



Some additional points of note for schools:

A Music Progression Fund will be piloted from September 2023

Music Hubs must identify Lead Schools to work with the Hub on design/delivery of CPD & peer to peer support by 2024

There will be £25 million additional funding for new instruments for schools, including adaptive instruments for pupils with SEND.



Timeline notes for schools:

From September 2022:

All schools to consider the guidance within the NPME for implementation over the next academic year.

By September 2023:

All schools should aim to have a Music Development Plan in place for academic year 2023/2024.

From September 2023:

Progression Fund pilot will run

By Spring 2024:

Hubs to have identified Lead Schools for CPD and peer to peer support

