

Music development plan summary: Consilium Evolve

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	Glen Freeman
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Karyn Taylor
Name of local music hub	Sunderland 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, 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 Evolve, music is delivered as part of the Language, Communication and Arts (LCA) combined creative pathway. This pathway enables students to explore a diverse range of themes through project-based and expeditionary learning approaches. Wherever possible, learning is connected to developing confidence in self-expression, an area of particular focus within our setting.

In Key Stage 2, students engage with rhythm through body percussion and explore links between animal movement, rhythm, and simple melody. In Key Stage 3, the curriculum builds on this foundation through the study of drumming, musical structure, and the layering of sound in more formal compositions. Students learn to read and apply standard notation, using it to support composition and improvisation. This

•

learning extends into a unit on animation, where drumming is revisited and integrated with digital music technology.

The programme culminates in a multi-instrumental unit based on the *Musical Futures* model, in which students explore rock instruments, collaborate in band workshops, and develop ensemble performance skills.

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.

At Evolve, each day begins with a 30-minute 'Fit to Learn' session designed to prepare students for learning by promoting alertness, focus, and engagement. During this session, students participate in a range of structured activities, which may include dance or movement linked to music and rhythm. A consistent feature of 'Fit to Learn' is an instrumental component, with students receiving small-group tuition on guitar, bass guitar, piano, or drums.

These sessions are delivered by an experienced music teacher who is proficient across all offered instruments, enabling a flexible and responsive approach to teaching. There is also potential for further development into additional disciplines such as singing or choir work. While initial explorations in these areas have taken place, they have yet to be sustained over time, reflecting the unique needs and dynamics of our student cohort.

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.

At Evolve, we celebrate success daily through our Rest, Restore and Acknowledge (RRA) session, which provides an opportunity for reflection, recognition, and positive closure to the school day. During these sessions, students are encouraged to share their achievements and may choose to perform individually or in small groups when they feel confident and ready to do so.

In addition, we hold an end-of-year celebration event, most recently hosted at the Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, where students showcase their learning through a musical performance. The style and content of these performances are

-

shaped by student interests and reflect the themes explored during the *Fit to Learn* programme.

In the future

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

At Evolve, we are keen to further develop and extend the role of music within our provision, recognising its significant impact on building confidence, resilience, and self-expression among our students. We continue to prioritise opportunities for meaningful musical engagement.

Given the dynamic nature of our cohorts, characterised by short-term placements and frequent transitions, our approach remains highly personalised and responsive. This flexibility enables us to integrate musical experiences swiftly and effectively whenever appropriate opportunities arise, ensuring that all students can benefit from the creative and therapeutic value of music.

Further information (optional)

Although Evolve is a small provision, we benefit from strong partnerships with the Sunderland Music Education Hub, whose support has been instrumental in enhancing our musical offer. Through this collaboration, we have been able to access a wide range of loan instruments, including keyboards, djembes, and ukuleles, as well as short-term loans of brass and string instruments for specific projects.

In addition, we have successfully secured funding from the Universal Music Foundation, enabling the purchase of several guitars and a digital piano to further enrich our curriculum and provide students with greater access to high-quality musical experiences.