

Music development plan summary: Lancaster High School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	09/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	09/2026
Name of the school music lead	R Spence
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Service
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.

As a school we deliver high-quality provision in curricular music across KS3 and KS4. Our KS3 curriculum has been revised to ensure to include the key features of the national plan for music education. As a school we are proud that our school timetable curriculum includes 2 hours of KS3 music over a fortnightly timetable. This allows for the music department to plan 6 or 7 week Schemes of Work (SOWs), depending on the half term. During lessons we give access to group music making experiences across a range of instruments, and voice. This includes whole class keyboard, guitar, African Drumming and Samba imbedded into appropriate schemes of work at appropriate stages of KS3. The KS3 curriculum is scaffolded so that prior learning is built upon lesson by lesson but also topic by topic, so pupils not only broaden their skill sets by trying new instruments but also deepen their musical learning and abilities by developing specific skills. Specific topics have been included at KS3 that are built upon at KS4 level, for example Film Music and Popular music are both studied at KS4 level, which is introduced at KS3. KS3 Homework is set half termly and is set on Microsoft forms.

Our school timetable curriculum includes 5 hours of KS4 music over a fortnightly timetable. Pupils study Eduqas GCSE Music. Throughout this course, pupils engage with performance, composition and listening and appraising skills but are able to 'specialise' on a specific instrument or voice. The KS4 pathway allow for progression to KS5 to carry on and pursue musical learning at a higher level at both vocational level 3 and A level. The KS4 curriculum is developed in-line with course requirements, but also so that prior learning is built upon. Planning is adapted on a lesson by lesson basis to suit the needs of the learners and this planning is judged and assessed by the classroom teacher based on learning outcomes. Homework is weekly and is set using Classcharts although most KS4 homework is based on coursework requirements and usually as extended projects.

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.

As a school we are proud that we give access to peripatetic lessons across a range of instruments and for voice. We work with independent peripatetic music teachers for piano, voice, drum kit, brass (trumpet, trombone), electric, bass guitar and ukulele, and violin. Pupils are able to play for fun or with more academic rigour. Some pupils learn aurally, others with music notation. When appropriate, pupils are entered for Graded Music Exams via the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) or using Rock School London (RSL). All pupils receive one-to-one lessons. Pupils who have Pupil Premium status are often entitled to subsidised music tuition. These subsidised lessons are easy to access. Parents sign up like any other and tick a box upon completion of the paperwork.

Where possible, pupils can loan an instrument from the school. The school happily assists any parent or carer who has a child with pupil premium status to sign up for lessons where help is needed. Our Music Clubs run most days during lunch and have always been well attended by different pupils across the school, where pupils participate enthusiastically and with excellent developing musicianship.

Our school ensembles include:

KS4 Music Club, The Band, The Trebles singing group and DJ and Music Technology club.

Pupils are able to practice at lunch and after school using the school music practice rooms. We open practice spaces regularly for pupils to further improve their practical work that begins in the classroom to give room for further improvement. This regular availability supports individual and small group rehearsal on any instrument and for voice.

We are developing our links with Lancashire Music Service which includes visiting workshops and also the Ableton package where every computer in the Music department has an Ableton Push device that are used in the curriculum lessons and in the extra-curricular clubs.

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.

Every half term, we run an Open Mic event where pupils get the opportunity to perform in front of their peers in an informal setting. This helps to build the confidence of the performer without the pressure of an outside audience watching them.

We hold regular concerts with external audiences where we showcase the progress that pupils have made in their peripatetic lessons as well as showcasing the groups that we have in extra-curricular clubs.

We perform regularly at the local church at their Christmas tree festival as well as holding an annual Christmas Carol Service for the whole of year 7.

We take pupils to performances in local and national theatres where they can experience watching live performances including musicals and pantomimes.

We work with the local jazz festival who host jazz workshops for our musicians.

We annually collaborate with a group of local secondary schools and the Leeds contemporary pop choir in a vocal workshop and take part in a performance at their concert in Lancaster.

At Christmas, we perform in a local nursing home to their residents.

This is updated during the school year as more opportunities arise at county and country level. This usually includes events such as; DJ and Music production workshops, singing workshops, instrumental workshops. As opportunities arise and are advertised, they are organised and hosted by the school.

In the future

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

- We continually build on and develop our music plan each academic year. We will continue to maintain our high-quality music provision, for example maintaining the amount of time students are able to access timetabled music lessons. We may introduce the teaching of new instruments, in the future and will continue with our termly and frequent performances. In subsequent years there will be further performance opportunities as we will continue to work with the local music hub as well as events at county level and reap benefits from workshops and events they provide. The curriculum is tweaked as necessary, to ensure teaching practice and materials are as up to date as possible. Extra-curricular experiences will strive to include a bi-annual school production.

Further information (optional)

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school.