

Music development plan: *The Birley Academy*

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	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	S Gillott
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	S Sleaford (SLT Link)
Name of local music hub	Sheffield

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.

Birley Academy music curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum (March 2021). It offers students the opportunity for personalisation and choice whilst providing prospects to engage with other relevant and influential forms of music in order to further widen their appreciation and understanding. Lessons are taught 1 hour per week at KS3 and 3 hours per week at Ks4.

Pupils can study Rock School qualifications within lesson and extracurricular lessons and students having private tuition can study ABRSM and Trinity gradings.

Topics taught across KS3 are as follows.

Year 7:

- Musical elements
- Musical periods through time
- Rhythm based composition
- Practical instrument experience and performance

Year 8

- Musical elements
- Instrument notation
- Music Genres and famous artists
- Garage Band composition
- Performance – inc. individual and ensemble: rhythm and pitch

Year 9

- Musical elements
- Instrument notation
- Music Genres and famous artists
- Garage Band composition
- Performance – inc. individual and ensemble: dynamics and technique

The curriculum is delivered through expertly crafted learning sequences. Teachers use carefully selected pedagogy that best supports pupils to learn, explore and revisit knowledge. This includes a focus on the following principles:

- Music is disciplinary and accessed through performance, composition and listening.

- Substantive conceptual knowledge includes: melody, articulation, dynamics, timbre, structure, harmony, instruments, rhythm and tempo.
- Substantive procedural knowledge includes how to practice, compose and embed and apply ideas to improve
- Disciplinary conceptual knowledge includes how instruments work, how composition knowledge has changed and developed over time.
- Disciplinary procedural knowledge includes how to set up and hold equipment safely as a musician including the use of a range of electrical and acoustic instruments.

All Schemes of Learning in KS3 are deliberately designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of background or prior musical experience, and offer a platform for young people to advance their playing to a high standard. There are many opportunities for pupils to learn to sing or play an instrument during lesson time within our planned curriculum. This can be done through soloist and whole-class ensemble teaching in all year groups. All our teaching spaces are set up and equipped with a range of instruments to use and a recording studio for vocalists.

Birley Academy has support from our local music Hub (Sheffield) providing peripatetic instrumental tuition for students across KS3 and KS4.

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.

Students are exposed to a range of instruments and opportunities through their weekly lessons in KS3. These include keyboard, guitar, drums, vocals, music technology and other stringed instruments. Students are able to access lessons by visiting specialists through the Sheffield Music hub, we currently have a student being tutored in Brass instruments.

There are 2 music sessions after school plus 3 break time drop ins. Students play in rock bands and practice solo instruments ranging from keyboard, guitar, bass, drum kit and vocals. Students also have access to music technology (Garage Band) composition and a recording studio. The after school session foci are driven by the interests of the pupils and their skill levels.

Years 10 and 11 have access to Period 6 (after-school revision) to improve their skills, compositions and coursework for their taught curriculum assessments, concert performances or graded exams, either through the Academy or privately entered.

Many students have private tuition outside of school that is not paid for by the Academy. Students can borrow instruments over weekends from the Academy with a

signed contract. There are also music hub bands and ensembles that students have opportunity to join on evenings and weekends.

Where pupils sign up for lessons via Sheffield Music Hub, payments are paid directly to the music service using their link which is found on our Academy website. The Music service has a section about extra funding for particular circumstances, if required. The guidance and links for booking are found here:

<https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/pages/music-lessons-in-schools>

All bands, singing activities are free to join at the Academy and are open to all year groups.

The Academy has 2 main music rooms; 1 set up for music technology and the other for whole classroom teaching of instrument skills. Outside of these rooms are 4 practice rooms equipped with drum kits, amps for guitars, bass guitars and the department provides laptops for audio support through speakers and/or tuition help.

There is 1 room currently set up as a vocal recording room and editing suite.

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.

Music experiences planned throughout the year include performances, celebration and award evenings, assembly performances for outstanding work, and school media celebrates student successes and accomplishments through the website, facebook and X pages, and sharing successes with local press through our PR links.

All experiences are free, except for school concerts which are charged at £2 for audience members. All experiences have a range of soloist, bands, instrumentation, including vocals. These are open to all year groups to perform and audiences are made up of students, parents/carers, and open to the wider community too.

We have also had Community events where students have performed alongside outside organisations such as Theatre groups (Splinters / Razzmatazz).

Leadership opportunities have recently been extended to the student body through the development of our Academy Ambassadors. A number of Music Ambassadors have been appointed from Years 7-10 in order to facilitate the smooth running of the department, support the planning and execution of events as well as provide student voice regarding the department and current curriculum. These Ambassadors also participate in our cultural events, such as European Day of Languages and Culture Week, where a range of musical experiences are showcased with our own pupils as well as opportunities for Year 5 & 6 to visit the Academy to also take part.

In the future

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

- More peripatetic instrumental lessons on offer across all year groups, with specialists being present in school regularly
- Wider community links – building much more opportunity for pupils to experience a range of performances and styles.
- Significantly increase and promote the participation in the school choir
- Extra-curricular clubs which have a sharp focus and lead to performances across a range of musical genres
- Whole school performances showcasing music, drama and dance.
- Opportunity for each year group to experience a live show/performance including singing and musical instruments
- Link with Sheffield Theatres to develop career pathways and opportunities for KS4 work experience
- Links with other L.E.A.D. schools to develop a shared curriculum offer at KS3 and KS4.
- Greater links with primary schools to ensure musical talent is promoted and nurtured as soon as pupils enter secondary
- Concert performance space improvements for a better concert experience

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local [music hub](#) should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.