

Music development plan summary: Whitcliffe Mount Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	06/11/2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	06/11/2026
Name of the school music lead	George Ruston
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Helen Jeffrey
Name of local music hub	Musica Kirklees
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

[Please click here to access the school music curriculum for each year.](#)

Our music curriculum is informed by the *National curriculum in England: Music programmes of study*, the *Model Music Curriculum*, and *The power of music to change lives: A National Plan for Music Education*, published by the Department for Education. This documentation can be accessed [here](#).

Allocated lesson time

Year 7: one lesson per fortnight

Year 8: one lesson per week

Year 9: one lesson per fortnight

Years 10 & 11: 5 lessons per fortnight

Instrumental Opportunities and Singing

In Year 7, students will learn to play the ukulele, piano and djembe, and will have singing opportunities throughout. In Year 8, students will continue singing, playing ukulele and piano, as well as learning samba percussion and having the opportunity to play guitar and bass guitar. In Year 9, students will be able to focus on an instrument of their choice while continuing to sing. Students will learn and perform on these instruments in a variety of solo, pair, small group and whole-class situations.

While instrumental ability is not essential in Key Stage 4, students are encouraged to use instruments of their choice in the creation of their coursework.

[Please click here to access information on the qualification we offer at Key Stage 4.](#)

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.

Co-curricular music opportunities:

Monday – Key Stage 4 Music Achieve: Year 10 & 11 have the opportunity to develop coursework, revise, catch up on missed work or practise their instrument.

Wednesday – Guitar Club: students of all abilities practise playing guitar together. Students suggest the songs they want to learn and can borrow guitars if necessary.

Thursday – Vocal Group: an all-abilities singing club. Students select which songs they sing. Music Production Club: students are permitted to use the practice rooms to play in bands, use the computers to produce music and use the music equipment in any way they wish.

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.

The School Musical

Each year, the Performing Arts department produces a school musical featuring singing, acting and dancing. Auditions are typically held early in the autumn term, with the production going live for a week in the spring term. Friends and family are invited to attend.

Performing Arts Showcase

The performing arts showcase is an annual opportunity for ambitious musicians at Whitcliffe to perform in front of a large audience including their parents. This promotes confidence and ambition while providing a great experience for our students.

Musical/Pantomime School Trips

In addition to the annual pantomime for Year 7, KS4 students are invited to experience a live musical.

Battle of the Bands

Our students are supported to form bands through annual 'Join My Band' sessions led by the music lead. Students may then book practice rooms for rehearsal. We support our students in entering the annual Kirklees College Battle of the Bands competition, in which our band won third place prize last year. Additional opportunities, such as Music on the Moor, are sourced for our students.

Performing in assembly

We have had our choir singing in assembly and are looking to widen this opportunity to a range of musicians at school.

In the future

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

Concerts, workshops & trips

In the future, we aim to provide more opportunities for our students to experience professional performances. Whether this be external providers visiting us in school, workshop-based activities or trips to concerts, we hope to enrich and inspire our young musicians by offering exciting musical experiences.

Performances

We also hope to develop more opportunities for students to perform outside of lessons, such as performances in assemblies, talent competitions and showcases.

Further information

Musica Kirklees is the music hub that provides our instrumental (peripatetic) lessons at school. On their website, you can find out about which instruments are supported, Musica Kirklees' instrument rental scheme, pricing and more. [Click here](#) to access. Some funding is available for parents/carers who may need support paying for lessons.

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. .