

Music development plan summary: Westhoughton High School

Overview

| Detail | Information |
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| Academic year that this summary covers | Sep 24-25 |
| Date this summary was published | June 2024 |
| Date this summary will be reviewed | June 2025 |
| Name of the school music lead | Rachel Jacobs |
| Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different) | Kim Gough |
| Name of local music hub | Greater Manchester Music Hub |
| Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place) | Bolton Music Service |

Part A: Curriculum music

From September 2024, Music will be taught for one hour each week to Year 7 students with Years 8 and 9 on a carousel with drama on a half-termly basis. As our Music development plan rolls out, each subsequent Year 7 cohort will access music weekly throughout KS3. Students can take Music as an option subject at KS4, where they receive three one-hour lessons per week, with our current offer including GCSE and BTEC qualifications.

Music lessons place emphasis on practical activities to embed knowledge, making them accessible for all learners, and we are investing in IT facilities to enable students to engage with modern music-making techniques as well as conventional instruments and traditional notation. At present, students have the opportunity to learn keyboard skills, samba drumming, ukulele, and rock band instruments (guitar, bass guitar, and drum kit) as part of their weekly lessons. Westhoughton High School's Music curriculum can be viewed [here](#). As we expand our curriculum to include more music at KS3, the content is continually under review and is being designed taking into account the National Plan for Music and the Model Music Curriculum.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

Working with Bolton Music Service, we offer one-to-one and small group lessons for a wide range of instruments, including voice, keyboard and piano, drums, guitar, woodwind, brass, and strings. In these sessions, students can work towards graded examinations with ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall, or RockSchool. We have a variety of instruments that can be used in school and there is the opportunity to hire instruments from Bolton Music Service by individuals.

Students pay for their shared or individual lessons directly through the music service, and the school is in partnership with Bolton Music Service to provide small group lessons, free of charge, to students who are in receipt of a Pupil Premium Grant.

The school has a student choir that rehearses weekly and performs regularly during the year at school and interschool events. The school band also rehearses weekly and performs in our Christmas celebration as well as the school summer show. Both groups are open to all year groups and are free to participate in. The music department also facilitates rehearsals for other pupil-led bands so students can progress in music outside of timetabled lessons.

Part C: Musical experiences

Each year KS3 students participate in Young Voices, a series of national choir events where hundreds of schools and thousands of children perform together in major concert venues throughout the country. The choir also performs at school awards events and an annual local concert event consisting of Westhoughton schools.

The school band provides music for the Christmas celebration and the school show, providing valuable rehearsal and performance opportunities that enrich the musical experiences for those who get involved.

Bolton Music Service peripatetic teachers provide a performance in school each year which is free and open to each new Year 7 cohort and aims to inspire students to participate in extra-curricular music.

Plans are in place to take advantage of partnerships with local professional orchestras to increase musical experiences for students through concert trips to increase the opportunities for students to engage with live music in events they might not have access to otherwise.

In the future

In September 2024, our music department will undergo a significant expansion aimed at enhancing the music curriculum. This initiative will ensure that every child receives

an hour of music education each week, with a focus on increasing curriculum time for Key Stage 3 (KS3) students over the next three years. A crucial part of this expansion is the addition of a second staff member. This new hire will not only facilitate the increased curriculum time but also contribute to the growth of our extra-curricular music programs. This strategic move aims to enrich the musical experience for our students, offering them more opportunities to engage with music both during and after school hours.

To support the growth of our music curriculum, we are planning to expand the physical space of the music department. Over the next two years, we will create additional rehearsal spaces and accommodate more musical groups. This development is essential to foster a vibrant musical environment where students can practice and perform.

Investment in IT infrastructure is also planned. This will enable the transformation of some curriculum topics, integrating technology to make music education more engaging and inclusive. By incorporating modern technological tools, we aim to make the subject more relevant and appealing to our diverse school community.

Further information

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 will include useful information. Please see [here](#) for information about the Greater Manchester Music Hub.

For more information about one-to-one and small group instrumental and voice lessons please see the information on the Bolton Music Service website [here](#)