

Music development plan summary: Astrea Academy Woodfields

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	August 2026
Name of the school music lead	Julie Atkins – Head of Performing Arts
Name of the school leadership team member with responsibility for Music (if different)	David Scales - Principal
Name of local Music hub	Doncaster
Name of other music education organisation (if partnership in place)	MISST Ian West Drumming School

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 Astrea Academy Woodfields, all KS3 scholars have a timetabled music lesson of one hour per week. This is complemented with a progression route into GCSE Music for Y10 and Y11, following the Eduqas specification. GCSE Musicians currently have 3 hours per week. Y11 results for the 24/25 academic year were based on the legacy BTEC course. This is no longer taught.

Please find here a link to our academy web page for Music for 25/26, where you can find more detailed information on our Music curriculum plan. (to be inserted)

The curriculum gives scholars opportunities to use a range of instruments including their voice. Our curriculum plans for Y9 this academic year use resources from the Musical Contexts curriculum, a fully resourced programme that meets the requirements of the National Music plan and is influenced by the model music curriculum for KS3. Most instrumental opportunities are currently driven by the keyboard in these years. We support scholars with SEND, making sure that we follow any individual plans in place across the school and ensuring that we are checking their understanding throughout the learning process.

We are proud to be partnered with the MISST programme, where the overarching aim is for KS3 students to follow the Andrew Lloyd Webber curriculum programme, learning a classical instrument to Grade Three standard. This will take 3 years to roll out across KS3. Currently our Y8 scholars are learning the flute or the clarinet, in addition to following the recommended

singing programme. Our Y7 scholars are learning the trumpet and trombone alongside the singing programme. We are looking to develop graded opportunities in singing, flute, clarinet, trombone, trumpet and drumming currently.

We have a dedicated Music classroom, alongside a Music tech room and practice rooms that are equipped with keyboards, computers and other instruments to support the curriculum.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for scholars to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how scholars can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We have a programme of enrichment, including a school choir, ensembles on the flute and clarinet, and the ambition for a school concert band to develop alongside our instrumental growth. These opportunities are completely free and advertised to scholars every morning as they enter school. Our music room, tech room and practice rooms are open nearly every break and lunchtime – scholars are welcome to attend and practice as individuals or with others. The music staff are on hand to listen and advise.

We have a visiting peripatetic specialist drumming teacher and have developed a partnership with the Doncaster Music Hub, plus other schools/festivals local to Doncaster and Astrea. The Curriculum Lead links in with the Music Lead for Doncaster regularly. The cost of a 20 minute drumming lesson is currently £9.50 with the option to subsidize this for any scholars who are unable to pay the full cost.

Scholars in Y8 currently loan a flute or a clarinet that is their instrument for at least 3 years. Scholars in Y7 currently loan a trumpet or trombone. They take this instrument home and are expected to complete 4 practice sessions per week.

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.

There are practice rooms and space for rehearsal, where teachers and scholars can prepare for performance opportunities. This includes a Christmas performance, a school production and a summer performance. Musicians are given the opportunity to watch live performance during the year, whether that be through professional musicals, concert bands or orchestra. This is given to scholars from Y7 –10 and charged at cost of ticket/transport. Any scholars who are unable to pay because of financial circumstances will be given support to ensure that they do not miss out.

Scholars will be given opportunities to sing and play their instruments together as part of the MISST programme.

Scholars performed at the London Barbican, played with other schools on Playdays and attended a residential at Greshams as part of the MISST programme. We also have a link with

Speakers for Schools where the CEO of the London Philharmonic Orchestra visited the school and 60 of our flautists performed for him.

In the future

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

- To further roll-out the MISST programme to every new Y7 scholar entering – so the entire KS3 is learning a classical instrument and there is a GCSE cohort who are at least Grade 3 proficiency in their instruments.
- To develop a partnership with Doncaster Music Hub, we can offer peripatetic lessons for other instruments such as keyboard, saxophone, drumming, guitar and voice.
- To enable our musicians to take part in local performance opportunities at festivals.
- School musical bi-annually, beginning in 25/26.