

# Music development plan summary: Whickham School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr Philip Noble
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Miss Samantha Tumelty
Name of local music hub	Gateshead Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

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

At Whickham School we are passionate about creative subjects and our broad curriculum allows students to access a range of creative opportunities including Music. The music curriculum is accessible to all pupils. It engages and motivates, enables personal expression, builds confidence, encourages reflection, boosts emotional development, develops critical engagement, stimulates and inspires us every day. It is three fold in concept; topic, theory and practical.

The curriculum offers two hours of music per fortnight per year in Key Stage 3. This increases to 5 hours of curriculum time if pupils opt for music within Key Stage 4 and subsequently 9 hours over a fortnight for those studying music at A-level or equivalent.

Students study music as part of their Key Stage 3 curriculum. The ambitious curriculum covers the content specified by the KS3 National Curriculum and is informed by the national model music curriculum and is subject to continuous refinement. The curriculum is both inclusive as well as challenging, meaning it is accessible for all but also provides opportunity to stretch those with musical talent.

In year 7 students explore themes such as; elements of music, minimalism and also develop keyboard skills. As students progress into year 8 they explore more of the music from around the world, in which students have the chance to play different instruments as well as developing their knowledge on variation and technique. Year 9 students focus on music from film as well as exploring the key elements which make a good song and they then go on to develop their own pieces using music technology where possible.

Within Key Stage 4 students can study GCSE Music allowing students to perform solo and ensemble pieces, composition one free and one to a brief. In addition they study 8 set works in preparation for an appraising paper. As students progress to Key Stage 5 music they will study Level 3 BTEC Music Performance which includes music theory and harmony, music industry and a solo performance and ensemble.

As a school we have incorporated music from the local area as well as developing opportunities for singing and collective singing.

## **Part B: Co-curricular music**

As a school we have a wide peripatetic offer. All students from Year 7-13 have the opportunity to have both one-to-one and/or small group lessons for instruments and voice. Students can also loan instruments through the peripatetics provision. Students have the chance to learn; guitar, piano, woodwind, strings, brass and voice.

In addition we have a strong extra-curricular music offer where students can join the Whickham Singers, Rock Band, Music Theory and Whickham Band. There is also the chance to partake in school productions both as part of the cast, musicians and crew. Students have the ability to book into the practice rooms to develop their musical skills with peers in social times and after school.

## **Part C: Musical experiences**

To enrich students' experiences within music we have a school musical Footloose planned for this academic year. There are opportunities for both instrumental and voice. In 2024 we showcased our first Key Stage 3 only musical Matilda, following its success we wish to mirror this moving forward.

Each Christmas we host a Carol Concert and Christmas celebration assemblies allowing students to showcase musical talents from Year 7-13.

To develop cultural capital trips and visits take place throughout the year including theatre trips. Trips are paid for by parents/carers and Pupil Premium places are funded through the schools PP fund. The Rich Experience Trip to London takes around 40 students from Y10-13.

Set out what musical experiences are planned for the academic year, including regular events such as singing in assembly, musical performances, concerts and shows at the school, and trips to concerts outside of the school.

## In the future

The curriculum is well sequenced and it continues to undergo continuous review and refinement. The North East has a rich cultural and musical history. We are looking at how we can explore and incorporate more local music, voice and also a wider range of instruments.

To further expand the uptake of peripatetic lessons.

The development of music technology is a key focus for this and future years.

## Further information

To support parents/ carers The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how to access music in and out of school.

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