

Music Development Plan Summary: The West Bridgford School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	5 th December 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	31st August 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs J Seymour
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Inspire, Nottinghamshire
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

KS3 Curriculum Summary

Overview of the KS3 Music Curriculum

Our KS3 music curriculum (Years 7–9) is a broad, sequential programme that develops pupils’ knowledge and skills in listening, performing, composing, and using music technology. It is fully aligned with the statutory **National Curriculum (NC)** and is strongly informed by the **Model Music Curriculum (MMC, 2021)**, which is referenced throughout departmental schemes of work.

A full breakdown of the curriculum for each year group—including term-by-term content and assessment information is published on our school website here:

<https://www.wbs.school/page/?title=Music&pid=41>

Curriculum Time Allocation

- Year 7: 56 minutes per week (1 period)
- Year 8: 56 minutes per week (1 period)
- Year 9: 56 minutes per week (1 period)
- Year 10 & 11: 5 lessons a fortnight
- Year 12 & 13: 9 lessons a fortnight

How the KS3 Curriculum Is Informed by NC / MMC

Across Years 7–9, all schemes of work explicitly reference key NC and MMC expectations.

Examples include:

- **Performing:** regular keyboard, vocal, percussion, ensemble and band-based performance (e.g., *Keyboard Skills, Harmony, Musical Theatre, Battle of the Bands*).
- **Composing:** structured projects progressing from early rhythmic and melodic work (*Foundations of Music*) through to DAW-based composition using Cubase and Sibelius (*Structure & Texture, Ground Bass, Composing to a Brief*).
- **Listening:** planned listening tasks embedded into nearly every unit, covering Western Classical, Popular, Blues, Hip-Hop, Musical Theatre and Film Music.
- **Musical Notation:** systematic progression from treble clef basics in Y7 to more advanced staff notation, key signatures, chord notation, triplets, articulation and structural markings in Y8–9.
- **Musical Understanding:** explicit teaching of interrelated dimensions, structure, texture, harmony, timbre, instrumentation, and genre-specific conventions.

Access, Inclusion and SEND Provision

Our curriculum is designed utilising the whole school approach of teach to the top and scaffold students to achieve our high expectations.

Across all schemes of work, SEND provision is embedded through:

- Different instrumental roles for individual strengths (e.g., simpler keyboard / ukulele parts, percussion-based alternatives).
- Use of **notation scaffolds**, chord charts, colour-coding, and paired/group support.
- Flexible assessment opportunities (performance, composition, DAW-based tasks).
- **Access arrangements** for written and practical assessments, as noted throughout the schemes.
- Opportunities for pupils who already learn instruments or have musical strengths to extend themselves (e.g., arranging with Sibelius, taking leadership roles, advanced strumming patterns, complex chord work).

Opportunities to Learn Instruments and Sing in Curriculum Time

Throughout KS3, all pupils have structured opportunities to develop singing and instrumental skills:

Singing

- Whole-class and group singing in Musical Theatre (Year 7) and Harmony (Year 8)
- Singing as part of pop-song writing (Year 8, Songwriting and Year 9, *Advanced Songwriting*)
- Regular use of singing to reinforce pitch and melodic learning

Instrumental Learning

Pupils learn and perform on a wide range of instruments during curriculum time, including:

- **Keyboard** (Year 7: Keyboard Skills, Instruments of the Orchestra; Year 8: Advanced Pitch, Songwriting; Year 9: Advanced Songwriting, Battle of the Bands)
- **Ukulele** (Year 8: Harmony)
- **Percussion, djembes and classroom instruments** (Year 7: Foundations of Music)
- **Band instruments** via practice rooms (Year 8: Songwriting; Year 9: Advanced Songwriting, Battle of the Bands)
- **Music technology** through DAW-based units using Cubase and Sibelius across all years.

Pupils with existing instrumental learning are encouraged to use their own instruments, especially in ensemble, arranging and band-based topics.

KS4/5 Offer

At KS4 we offer OCR GCSE music which students opt for as one of their GCSE options. At KS5 we offer Eduqas A-Level Music.

KS2-KS3 Progression

We routinely work with our feeder schools to support them to deliver music at KS2. As the curriculum offer at KS2 is so varied, we therefore focus on a lot of skills at the start of Y7 to support everyone in achieving the same basic understanding.

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.

Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

The school offers a comprehensive programme of instrumental and vocal tuition beyond curriculum lessons, supporting pupils at all stages of their musical development. Tuition is available through a combination of **one-to-one** lessons provided by a team of specialist visiting tutors. Tuition is available for:

- **Strings:** violin, viola, cello, double bass
- **Woodwind:** flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon
- **Brass:** trumpet, cornet, trombone, French horn, tuba
- **Percussion:** drum kit
- **Keyboard:** piano
- **Guitar:** classical, acoustic and electric as well as bass guitar
- **Voice:** classical, theatre and contemporary vocal styles
- **Music theory and LAMDA (through arts enrichment programme)**

Instruments can be hired directly from the music hub, Inspire Music. For pupils receiving lessons as part of the **arts enrichment programme**, instruments, books and exam entry fees are fully funded by the school.

Charging and Remissions

Standard tuition fees apply for most pupils which is at a rate of £34p/h; however, the school subsidises or waives costs for families in certain circumstances:

- **Disadvantaged pupils (including those eligible for pupil premium)** in Years 7 and 8 are offered fully funded 1:1 instrumental or LAMDA lessons through the arts enrichment programme. Where pupils

Qualifications and Awards

Pupils can pursue:

- **ABRSM, Trinity, RSL graded exams** (instrumental and vocal)
- **LAMDA** acting and speaking exams (as part of the arts enrichment programme)
- Performance experience contributing to **GCSE and A-Level preparation**
- Composition and arranging experience feeding into GCSE coursework skills

Partnerships Supporting Co-Curricular Music

The school works closely with:

- **Toot Hill School** to run the joint Symphony Orchestra
- **Local community organisations** (e.g., Radcliffe on Trent Male Voice Choir; performances in Melton Mowbray and Bingham)

- **Local primary schools;** inclusion in Carol Service and invitations to dress rehearsals of our productions (year 6 invited to our whole school production and year 4 to our KS3). Year 5 are invited to watch a dress rehearsal of our KS3 concert.
- **Local Music hub** is Inspire Music.

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.

Ensembles, Choirs and Music Groups

We offers a rich and diverse ensemble programme that enables pupils of all ages and abilities to participate in high-quality music-making beyond the classroom. Ensembles rehearse weekly.

Current Ensemble Offer

- **Choirs and Vocal Groups**
 - Year 7 Choir
 - Whole School Choir (now 60+ singers)
 - Choirs are fully inclusive, non-auditioned, and open to all from Year 7 upward
- **Orchestras and String Groups**
 - KS3 Orchestra
 - KS4 Orchestra
 - String Orchestra
 - Training Strings
- **Wind, Brass and Specialist Ensembles**
 - Concert Band
 - Brass Ensemble
 - Flute Choir
- **Jazz and Contemporary Music**
 - Jazz Band
 - Jazz Combos
 - Rock School
- **Composition and Songwriting**

- Year 9 Songwriting and Composition Group (students perform original songs in the KS3 Concert)
- **Cross-School Symphony Orchestra** (in partnership with Toot Hill School)
 - A high-level regional ensemble tackling advanced repertoire (recent works include Mendelssohn Symphony No. 4, Mozart Symphony No. 31, Haydn Symphony No. 104, Beethoven Symphony No. 3).
 - Rehearsals rotate between the two schools on Wednesday evenings.
 - Participants have additional opportunities to perform in community and regional events.

Joining Ensembles (Year Groups and Access)

- All ensembles are **free of charge**, including choirs, orchestras and bands.
- Choirs are **non-auditioned** and open to any pupil from Year 7 upward.
- Instrumental ensembles have specific instrumental requirements although most are open to all abilities of those instruments. **Jazz Band, String Orchestra and Concert Band** is open to those equivalent of Grade 3+. **Symphony Orchestra** is open to all string players Grade 4+ and woodwind, brass and percussion players by invitation only.
- The school's ensemble structure creates clear progression pathways from beginner groups → intermediate groups → advanced ensembles → Symphony Orchestra.

Regular Performances and Events

The annual performance calendar includes:

- Whole School Production (October)
- Winter Wonderland Performing Arts Event (December)
- Traditional Carol Service (December)
- Cabaret Vocal Evening (February)
- KS5 Recital Evening (March)
- KS3 Musical (March)
- Symphony Orchestra Concert (March)
- Sixth-form-led **Bridgstock** (March)
- KS3 Concert (May)
- Gig Night (June)
- Year 9 Battle of the Bands (June)
- Summer Concert (July)

These events provide authentic, motivating performance experiences for pupils of all abilities and musical interests.

School Productions

Since 2022, the school has established a thriving and inclusive whole-school musical theatre programme. Productions have included:

- *Bugsy Malone* (2022)
- *Oliver!* (2023)
- *Little Shop of Horrors* (2024)
- *The Addams Family* (2025)
- *Beauty and the Beast* (scheduled for 2026)

Additionally, the KS3-only productions provide younger students with accessible performance opportunities:

- *Annie Jr.* (2024)
- *Mary Poppins Jr.* (2025)
- *Fame Jr.* (2026)

These productions incorporate large casts, band opportunities for pupil musicians, student-run technical teams, and roles in stage management, lighting and sound.

Trips and Off-Site Visits

Students taking A-Level music currently visit London once a year to see 2 different musicals in a year in alignment with the KS5 curriculum.

In the future

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

In the future we would like to strengthen our KS2-KS3 transition, invest more time and resources to post KS5 music provision and provide greater enrichment through trips.