Music development plan summary: Ashton on Mersey School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	November 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	David Hall
Name of local music hub	Trafford Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Freelance Arrangements with Independent Peripatetic Music Staff

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 Ashton on Mersey pupils study a broad and rich curriculum of Music study across Key Stage 3 during one timetabled lesson per week. Pupils study in mixed ability Form groups with emphasis on pupils learning to appraise, compose and perform.

Details of the school Music Curriculum can be found via the school website: https://aomschool.co.uk/key-information/curriculum/

The curriculum is written collaboratively alongside Music experts across the Dean Trust schools and is designed to be accessible to all, using Rosenshine's Principles for Instruction to guide the building of knowledge through careful scaffolding of indicative National Curriculum content. Teacher modelling is woven throughout our curriculum and pupils are encouraged to become proficient in playing technique as well as learning how elements such as how rhythms and melodies combine to build musical repertoire.

At Key Stage 4, pupils can opt for Music in order to attain a GCSE qualification through the EDUQAS exam board. Pupils are supported through this with funded peripatetic Music lessons and instrument hire for all GCSE candidates.

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.

Pupils have the opportunity to sing during curriculum learning, as well as through extra-curricular opportunities. Ashton on Mersey has a proud choral singing tradition, with our choir performing in the local community, at showcase events and at Music Festivals across the academic year. We are also proud to produce a school musical production each year, performing out of the Sale Waterside Arts Centre alongside theatre professionals to enable pupils to have the experience of theatre production on a grand scale.

Peripatetic teaching is offered at Ashton on Mersey School through a team of freelance staff, who offer a broad range of instruments, including Voice, Piano, Guitar, Strings, Woodwind, Brass and Drums. Our programme has experienced significant growth over the last five years, with over 125 pupils now accessing instrument learning.

The cost for our Music Tuition is currently £240 for the academic year, with a 33% discount for pupils on the Pupil Premium list. Pupils go through a formal sign-up process at the beginning of the year in order to access this, however Music teachers are encouraged to guide pupils towards instrument learning at any point in the year and the timetable is growing with consistency as more pupils discover a love for learning an instrument.

Instrument hire is free at Ashton on Mersey, in order to remove barriers to beginning learning an instrument and we host a large stock of instruments to support all pupils' ambitions. These include:

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Alto Sax
- Tenor Sax
- French Horn
- Tuba

Our extra-curricular provision has an emphasis on keyboard skills and composition, with lunchtime and after school groups where keyboard playing is developed beyond the core curricular offer and pupils can also explore composition in a manner that builds towards the skillset required to access GCSE learning.

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.

This year at Ashton on Mersey there are a plethora of planned musical experiences that pupils may access.

This includes:

- The School Parent Coffee Morning events
- Performances at the local care homes Fiona Gardens and Ashlands
- The Christmas Market Performance

- Carols in the Park
- The Christmas Carol Service
- Young Voices
- The school production of Footloose
- The Summer Fair
- Ashton on Mersey Music Showcase
- Trips to *Blood Brothers* and concerts at Bridgewater Hall

All of these events are open to all pupils, with sign-up advertised through the school newsletter and the extra-curricular programme.

In the future

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

The ambition for our music department is to increase pupil led performance showcase events. We have moved from a model whereby peripatetic teaching staff and Music teachers provided playing support in ensemble groups and led the accompaniment of whole school celebration events, such as the Christmas Carol Service. We are in the process of pulling back much of this support as pupil proficiency increases, so that ensemble groups are now predominately, and in most places exclusively pupils playing all parts.

In our last academic year we had our second performance where the orchestra was made up entirely of pupils, and one of our principle future aims are to maintain this, and also develop the prominence of this ensemble within the wider school.

Further information (optional)

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.

Trafford Music Hub https://www.traffordmusicservice.co.uk/ also share a wide range of ways in which pupils can get involved in Music outside of school and are an excellent way in which your child can be involved in Music and Musical events.