

Music development plan summary: Didsbury High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	1/7/25
Date this summary will be reviewed	1/7/26
Name of the school music lead	Emma Moss
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Heather Brown
Name of local music hub	One Education Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Greater Manchester and Blackburn with Darwen

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.

Our aims are for every student regardless of background or circumstance to be inspired, and to make progress to achieve the highest standards of musicianship. Our curriculum endeavours to achieve our aims in the key areas of singing, listening, composing and performing. We aim to develop powerful knowledge of musical concepts and creative skills through the study of a broad range of genres and through critical engagement with historical, social, moral, spiritual, and cultural contexts.

Our curriculum teaches beyond what is required to pass examinations. It enriches the lives of our individual students and enables them to develop mature musical understanding and a lifelong appreciation of music.

Students build powerful knowledge and skills through performing, composing and listening.

They develop their vocal and instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness in a range of solo and ensemble contexts.

They understand the threshold concepts of musical theory, identify and use the interrelated dimensions of music expressively and with increasing sophistication, including use of tonalities, scales, and musical devices.

They compose and improvise; extend and develop musical ideas, use staff and other relevant notations in a range of musical styles, genres and traditions.

They listen with increasing discrimination, and awareness to a wide range of music from great composers and musicians informing their practice as musicians and developing a deep understanding of the music that they perform and to which they listen, and its history.

View the KS3 Music Overview under ‘Useful Documents’ on [this page](#).

View the KS4 Music Overview under ‘Useful Documents’ on [this page](#).

View the KS5 Overview on our [A Level Music page](#)

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.

Our music curriculum inspires our students to be involved in an extensive, diverse elective enrichment programme which includes orchestra, choirs, string, woodwind and brass ensembles and steel bands. Our inclusive ensembles and choirs are delivered by expert practitioners who nurture an enjoyment of performing whilst challenging our students to develop their musicianship. We encourage our students to strive to achieve through graded music examinations.

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.

We provide quality opportunities to work in partnership with professional music organisations and conservatoires. Student ambassadors develop leadership skills by sharing their musicianship with their peers.

We are unapologetically aspirational which is demonstrated through the quality of our performances which include an annual school concert programme, recital evenings, partnership concerts with our local hub partners and Laurus Live our annual Trust concert which features our Trust symphony orchestra, choirs and ensembles.

In the future

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

In 2026 we will travel to London for a musical theatre workshop and performance. We will give all students the opportunity to hear a musical performance.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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 should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.