

Music Development Plan Summary: [Lowton Church of England High School]

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/26
Date this summary was published	13 th June 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	22 nd May 2026
Name of the school music lead	Matt Whitfield
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Phil Carter
Name of local music hub	Wigan Music Service (part of GM HUB)
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.

Music Curriculum Statement

Music offers an opportunity for students to develop their own musical creativity through composition and performance underpinned by an increasingly diverse awareness of musical traditions and cultures across the world.

Our music curriculum is rich in knowledge and skills that will see them become well-rounded human beings supporting their learning in other subjects. We promote creative thinking, and ignite curiosity as we develop a love for music across a variety of different cultures throughout history.

At Lowton Church of England High School we are passionate about musical education and see this as a crucial part of a child's education and important for their development overall.

We offer access to instrumental/vocal lessons outside of the timetabled music curriculum for those who wish to partake.

Music at KS3 is delivered to all students in years 7 to 9, through timetabled lessons each week with students receiving a lesson of music each week. This is further supplemented by an extensive instrumental tuition offer which also takes place throughout the core school day.

We have a good (and increasing year on year) number of students opting to study GCSE music each year. Currently AQA GCSE music is studied in Y10 and Y11.

Within music students will:

- Learn through the language of music to communicate in a musical way in solo and group settings. Planned opportunities are given to perform collectively and sing together within schemes of learning across Key Stage 3.
- Develop instrumental skill across a range of different contexts.
- Shown an understanding of a range of musical structures, styles and genres from different traditions throughout history.

How do we ensure academic rigour in our music curriculum?

- Students are taught to listen and to understand music from a variety of genres and locations providing them with an extensive awareness of musical styles, deliberately selected to develop and challenge their awareness. KS3 National Curriculum's aims, attainment targets and subject content is covered fully by the planned curriculum. Inspiration for the units and subject content is taken from the model music curriculum.
- Students develop their composition skills incorporating increasingly complex musical devices and approaches utilising technology when appropriate, and through practical experimentation.
- Students perform in a variety of groupings reflecting different musical styles. They are trained to evaluate and be reflective of their own and other's performances.

How do we nurture and develop our students through our music curriculum?

- Musicians are highly employable due to the nature of their attributes developed studying music, namely; communication, determined, socially aware, confidence, patience, creativity. We nurture these qualities in our students.

- Through studying music, students are able to become excellent communicators both in an independent and group setting.
- Extra-curricular music provides opportunities for students to take their learning out of the classroom in to real-world experiences. This includes school shows and showcases during the academic year.

Further details of the KS3 Music Curriculum long term plans can be found here:

<https://www.lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk/site/data/files/curriculum/overviews/BDADC7199DC76A508358D706ECB4001F.pdf>

How do we promote social action and courageous advocacy through our music curriculum?

- Working with others appreciating what others can bring to a situation to improve outcomes and offer different opinions.
- Music will support the self-awareness of each individual but also an awareness for the wider world and the different people in it, through increased exposure to a variety of cultures.
- Students recognise the power of music to bring communities together and the power of music as an inclusive experience.

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.

In addition to core timetabled music lessons, we offer a range of instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities. These include:

- vocal / singing one-to-one and small group tuition
- piano / keyboard lessons
- guitar (acoustic and electric) and bass guitar lessons
- drum lessons
- DJ lessons
- Brass
- Strings

These lessons are delivered by visiting music staff from Wigan Music Service. Students accessing these lessons currently pay a fee which is directed by the service.

All students that wish to, are able to access these lessons. Alongside the offer of instrumental / vocal lessons, the academy offers the following ensemble opportunities to students [delete/add as applicable] :

- rock band(s)
- choir(s)

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 many other musical experiences and encounters which take place throughout the year, and which either expose students to music or give them direct participation in music.

There are opportunities for students to perform at events such as our annual summer showcase and also during whole school assemblies and smaller sessions of worship through the school year.

The school stages a full-scale musical theatre production each year which provides students with opportunities to sing (both solo and as part of the ensemble). Students are also involved in the technical side of the production working as stage crew and assisting in sound and lighting elements of the show alongside members of staff.

Performances are well attended and supported by students, staff and parents/carers.

In the future

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

With reference to the 7 features of high-quality music provision, Lowton Church of England High School is fully committed to further developing and enhancing the provision that is in place for our students.

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one lesson each week of the school year for key stages 3

Our development plan for music has highlighted that we want to continue to develop the curriculum that our students experience. Although this is strong, we are committed to ensuring our curriculum is of an exceptional standard. We continue to research and develop best-practices within music and beyond to ensure all our students flourish, thrive and succeed within the subject area.

- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice

As a school and department, we are looking at how we can further widen the range of instruments on offer to provide an even better musical provision.

- a school choir or vocal ensemble

This is a key focus of our enrichment programme and we aim to build on this year and year in conjunction with the school chaplain and the music department. We plan to further widen the scope of students involved in the choir and vocal ensembles.

We would like to develop this further by making working links with primary schools in the local area.

- a school ensemble, band or group

There are plans in place to look at how we broaden the number of ensembles/bands and groups.

- space for rehearsals and individual practice

The department is well resourced for practice spaces. Currently there are 2 big classrooms which can be used for practice along with 2 dedicated practice rooms. One is for bigger ensemble practice and a second is for more individual performance. There is ambition to convert a space which is being used for storage into a recording/music technology space. All practice rooms are equipped with a drum kit, amplifiers, cables, mics and other accessories to allow students to practice performance.

- a termly school performance

Currently we have two performances per year.

There are plans in place to build in smaller performance opportunities that allow a greater range of students to engage fully with live performance. This will include assembly showcases and whole school events.

Plans are in place for the next school production/concerts for the academic year 25/26.

- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Plans for 2025/26 include ensuring all students experience a minimum of one live performance outside of the classroom. There is a desire to plan in and visit 2 musical theatre performances away from school be this at local colleges or at a theatre in nearby towns (Liverpool Empire, Manchester Palace). Student also access music performances from external visitors into school as part of the worship curriculum or part of PSHE curriculum.

Further information (optional)

Here you can find further information, including links to our local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Wigan-Music-Service/index.aspx>

[GM Music Hub](#)

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.

[National Plan for Music Education](#)