

Music development plan summary: Barlby High School Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025 - 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sam Tanner-Smith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	North Yorkshire Music 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.

Making music accessible to everyone. Bringing together the music and culture from different periods and cultures around the world through the amalgamation of subject specific skills and life skills.

The subject focuses on improving the quality of students' musical responses and musical understanding to promote good prospects for further study and a life-long appreciation for the art form. Music is an incredibly varied subject by nature, encompassing practical skills, listening skills, creative skills, self-management skills, problem-solving, and communicative skills. While the curriculum is incredibly broad and allows for students to explore unfamiliar musical traditions, the topics have been carefully chosen to explore the key concepts aimed at each key stage: One topic focused upon Western Classical Tradition, one focussed upon Popular Music and one focussed upon 'traditional 'World' music. This links into the 4 areas of study at key stage 4, should students wish to take GCSE music.

The KS3 model national curriculum has performance, composition, notation, the musical elements, key composers, music history and context as the key strands. These are developed throughout Ks3 and feed into the set works and practical elements at Ks4 and 5. The language and terminology used develop as the KS goes higher.

Year 7 students will study, learn and link the basic musical elements to reach a minimum understanding of performing, composing and appraising music, regardless of their primary music experience.

Year 8 is a development of the three core strands (performing, composing and appraising) alongside more developed technique and incorporation of the musical elements. They use more complex musical styles as a basis.

Year 9 sees the integration of basic GCSE tasks to allow students to experience KS4 and make an informed choice of whether to opt for the subject.

Year 10 and year 11 focus on the AQA GCSE Music four areas of study at the new level with lots of work on performance and composition skills alongside regular appraising of music including the set works in the four areas of study..

Stretch and challenge tasks are given to those who wish to study music as A Level/Level 3 to allow them to experience the requirements and complexity for the next stage of their journey.

1 All tasks are split into three difficulty levels including challenge, super challenge and turbo challenge. There are also mystery/individual challenges for those who are high attaining or have relative strengths or weaknesses. These are given in a live marking format where individual tasks are set. These are written on post it notes as separate tasks.

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The learning experiences are high quality and authentic (where possible), with clear progression routes. The department prides its curriculum on being inclusive, absorbing, relevant, varied, progressive and respectful – all of which are important in producing active and confident students.

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.

Music Instrument tuition is offer by the North Yorkshire Music Hub. This includes including one-to-one and small-group tuition for instruments or voice.

A variety of ensembles are offered throughout the year including choir, rock band and other forms of music-making such as music open lunchtimes where students can come and develop the skills learner in class with others from different year groups.

Pupils can make progress in music outside of lesson time through local learning partners and peripatetic and private teachers, many of whom already teach existing students. Suggestions can be made from the music teacher.

Pupils can join in school choir or ensembles in all year groups and pupil premium support is available upon request.

The annual school production rehearses weekly in conjunction with the drama department and is open to all.

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 a variety musical performances, concerts and shows at Barlby High School, with trips to concerts outside of the school, liaising with the drama department.

We have an annual musical production which is well subscribed every year by all year groups.

Recent trips and opportunities include:

Theatre Trips to Musicals including Blood Brothers and Little Shop of Horrors.

Carol singing in the local community.

Visiting artists and companies.

We are keen to develop our offer and regularly take student voice to see how our offer can be developed alongside our creative ambassadors to reflect student interests.

In the future

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

We are continually looking to reflect on our practice and reflect current musical trends within our lessons and opportunities. We continually review and adapt curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, building on our existing strong offer.

We have a department student voice where students are able to vote for styles/artists that they wish to study. This has proven popular and successful in its initial run and will be developed in the future.

We are looking to develop a wider variety of shows and opportunities including a talent showcase and other cross subject collaborations, across wider creative and visual arts subjects.

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.

North Yorkshire Music Hub also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.