

Music development plan summary: Studio West

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-25
Date this summary was published	19 th September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 st September 2025
Name of the school music lead	Nicole Mavin
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Aimee Kirtley
Name of local music hub	North Tyneside Music Education Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Partnership North

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.

The learning journey for music students is [available here](#).

In Key Stage 3 students have two music lessons a fortnight.

Studio West provides a comprehensive and inclusive music curriculum aligned with both the Mode Music Curriculum and the National Curriculum. Our program offers students a well-rounded musical education, covering key areas such as Singing, Listening, Composing, Instrumental Performance and Music Production.

Throughout the curriculum, we will encourage students to support and challenge each other, as well as enhancing their perception of the world around them. We aim to communicate the valuable transferable skills the subject has to offer and support

students with achieving these. Through Music, students will develop their confidence and communication as they collaborate in ensemble performances.

At the core of our music department's approach is ensuring students have the widest possible access to the arts. Our curriculum emphasises a practical hands-on approach, allowing students to actively engage in music-making but also nurtures their critical thinking and creativity. During KS3, students are introduced to a range of instruments, such as keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drums. Students will develop their practical abilities in both solo and group settings before selecting their preferred instrument in year 8.

As they progress throughout the KS3 curriculum into years 8 and 9, students will continue to develop their proficiency on their chosen specialist instrument. Students will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative projects and experience an ensemble performance. To support with this practical approach, Studio West collaborates with Music Partnership North to ensure that students in the school have access to musical instruments and teaching resource to support their learning.

The KS4 Music curriculum aims to not only engage but inspire students to develop their love of performing. Students will develop their ability to analyse and evaluate key elements within music, developing their creativity while instilling a sense of achievement as they begin to collaborate on their own work. The music curriculum encompasses three main areas 1) analysis of set works 2) practical solo and ensemble performances and 3) Compositions. Students will explore set works from distinct genres and time periods, focus on developing composition skills by emphasising at least four key musical elements and deliver two live performances for recording. At the end of the course, students will have gained a GCSE in Music from the AQA Exam Board.

Lesson Allocations:

KS3: 1 hour per week

Year 10 GCSE Music have 5 hours per fortnight

Year 11 GCSE Music have 5 hours per fortnight

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.

Music tuition outside of lesson time

All students at Studio West have access to extra peripatetic lessons free of charge. These lessons are 20-30 minutes long and give students the chance to excel on an

instrument of their choosing. Students studying Music at GCSE are expected to undertake peripatetic lessons to support them with their composition work. Our peripatetic teaching staff offer lessons in: singing, guitar, piano, DJ and drums.

Pupils can borrow instruments from school for practice and there are practice spaces available before school and during break and lunch for private practice and small group rehearsal. Students often choose to use social times to collaborate with teaching staff to develop their practical abilities.

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 have recently taken big steps forward in our development of music and performing opportunities across the school. In 2024, Studio West staged a successful production of *Bugsy Malone* which offered students the opportunity to access singing lessons where they collaborated as an ensemble. Students are currently working on their 2025 production of *Grease* which allows them to access weekly singing lessons, developing their understanding of harmonies and vocal skills.

In 2024, KS4 students were given the opportunity to attend a recording studio and access professional industry equipment to record their own compositions. Students were able to share their work and celebrate their successes. 2024 also saw the introduction of a Studio West Band, which rehearsed afterschool with teaching staff and made their debut performance at the Performing Arts showcase in the summer term. Our student band was invited back to perform at multiple events such as our Academic Achievement Evening and our Year 9 Graduation.

Students will also have various opportunities throughout the year to collaborate as an ensemble and work with industry professionals towards a community production where staff and parents are invited to watch and support. These tickets are sold at a reduced price of £1.50 for students and £3.00 for adults to ensure all can access these performance opportunities. KS3 and KS4 students are taken to multiple performances throughout the year to support their understanding of how music can be incorporated into theatrical productions.

In order to build relationships with the community, Students will have the opportunity to engage in a school choir which will travel to local primary schools and care homes where students can begin to develop relationships with local residents and show what the school is capable of. They will then be invited to attend matinee performances of our school productions/performance evenings to further encourage this.

In the future

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

Plans for the future include:

- Align the existing curriculum more closely with the 2021 Model Music Curriculum
- Enhance singing participation in music lessons, beginning with Year 7 as the starting point
- Offer opportunities to KS2 to build a relationship with primary schools and support learners with their transition into KS3
- Expand ensemble opportunities
- Offer students access to a broader selection of instruments in classroom lessons and develop the range of instrument peripatetic lessons offered to include more brass instruments
- Boost participation in extracurricular musical activities
- Increase the number of students choosing to study Music at Key Stage 4
- Offer more opportunities for students to attend and experience live music performances

Further information

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.

Local Music Hub link: <https://ntmeh.org.uk/>