



MUSIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN SUMMARY

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Music development plan summary:

New Road Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	June 20, 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 20, 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ben Millington
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Heather Murphy
Name of local music hub	Telford & Wrekin Music
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	NA

This summary details how New Road Academy delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas: curriculum music, co-curricular provision, and musical experiences. It also outlines the changes we are planning in future years to enhance our music provision.

This music curriculum has been designed to reflect the expectations set out in the government's National Plan for Music Education: The Power of Music to Change Lives which sets out the vision and expectations for music education in England through to 2030. The curriculum build also draws on the Model Music Curriculum as the framework for sequencing knowledge, skills and progression through Key Stages 3 and 4. Our practice is also informed by the Ofsted Music Research Review to ensure quality, depth and assessment are well-judged.

Part A: Curriculum music

Support for SEND Pupils

We are committed to providing inclusive music education. Our music department ensures that all lessons and activities are accessible to pupils with disabilities and special educational needs. We provide differentiated instruction and adaptive instruments where necessary. We also work closely with the school's SEND department to tailor our teaching methods and materials to meet individual needs.

Consistency of Content Delivery

We ensure that the detailed content outlined in our curriculum is consistently delivered across all music classes. Our team of dedicated music teachers follows a standardised scheme of work and participates in regular professional development sessions to maintain high teaching standards.

Medium Term Plans

Our medium-term plans outline the specific content and skills taught each term, ensuring a structured and coherent progression in music education. These plans are available on our school's website for transparency and alignment with the overall curriculum framework.

Achieving Non-Statutory Guidance

Our music curriculum aligns with the non-statutory guidance by providing a balanced and broad range of musical experiences. We focus on developing pupils' creativity, performance skills, and understanding of music's cultural context. Our curriculum includes various genres and traditions, ensuring pupils gain a comprehensive music education.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum (Years 7–9)

At New Road Academy, all students receive a minimum of one hour of timetabled music per week throughout Key Stage 3, in line with the National Plan for Music Education. Our curriculum is carefully sequenced and informed by the Model Music Curriculum and underpinned by the latest Ofsted Music Research Review ensuring that pupils build secure knowledge, practical musicianship and cultural understanding.

Year 7, students begin by developing core musical literacy, listening skills and performance confidence. Units explore instrument families and ensemble roles, introduce structured singing with proper vocal technique, and offer pupils their first compositional framework through pentatonic and blues-based explorations. Cultural context is embedded through genre studies such as reggae, while ensemble work develops rehearsal discipline, musicianship and collaboration.

In Year 8, students deepen their understanding of musical structure, timbre and stylistic diversity. They study orchestral development, world music traditions such as African music and Samba, and advanced notation and listening skills. Collaborative band work and integrated music technology activities ensure students experience both acoustic and digital music-making as connected practices, supporting progression into more sophisticated creative projects.

In Year 9, students consolidate and extend their musicianship in preparation for Key Stage 4 pathways such as GCSE Music or BTEC Music Practice. This year emphasises refined ensemble performance, confident solo contribution, and deeper analytical skills. Students engage with composition tasks that require intentional use of musical

form, texture and expressive devices. Listening units focus on Western art music traditions alongside contemporary popular music, ensuring balanced cultural capital. Integrated music technology supports composing, recording and editing tasks, enabling students to make creative choices with industry-standard tools. Across Key Stage 3, pupils sing regularly, compose using structured frameworks, perform individually and in ensembles, and develop critical aural and theoretical understanding. Assessment is ongoing and formative, focusing on musical fluency, accuracy, creativity and expressive intent, in line with Ofsted's subject-specific guidance.

By the end of Year 9, students will have built a secure foundation of practical skills, theoretical knowledge and cultural awareness, preparing them effectively for progression into KS4 qualifications or continued co-curricular musical engagement.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum (Years 10–11)

At Key Stage 4, students at New Road Academy can choose to specialise in music through either OCR GCSE Music or the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. Both pathways are rigorous, ambitious and designed to develop confident, independent musicians equipped with the technical, creative and analytical skills required for further study or careers within the creative industries.

OCR GCSE Music

The OCR GCSE Music course provides a broad and academically demanding study of music. Students develop advanced performance skills through both solo and ensemble work, demonstrating technical control, stylistic understanding and expressive interpretation. Composition is a central component of the course, requiring students to apply secure knowledge of harmony, structure, texture and musical devices to create original works in response to both set briefs and personal creative interests. The listening and appraising element of the course deepens analytical understanding across five Areas of Study, including Western classical traditions, film music, world music, and conventions of pop. Students develop secure aural perception, contextual awareness and the ability to articulate musical understanding using appropriate terminology. This ensures strong preparation for A-Level Music, Level 3 vocational pathways, or wider arts-based study.

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice offers a practical and industry-focused route that develops students' skills as performers, composers and producers. The course balances creative independence with professional discipline, requiring students to explore music products and styles, develop technical performance and production skills, and respond to externally set industry briefs. Students gain hands-on experience using music technology and recording equipment, developing competencies in composition, arrangement, rehearsal technique and

collaborative project management. The qualification emphasises authenticity, creativity and resilience, mirroring real-world music industry expectations and providing a strong progression route into Level 3 vocational study or creative industry training.

Across both pathways, students benefit from dedicated rehearsal spaces, performance opportunities and access to music technology facilities that support high-quality outcomes. Assessment is structured to promote independence, technical accuracy and creative intention, reflecting the expectations set out in the National Plan for Music Education and the wider Key Stage 4 accountability framework.

By the end of Key Stage 4, students leave New Road Academy as confident performers, thoughtful composers and informed listeners, equipped with transferable skills including collaboration, discipline, problem-solving and expressive communication.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Our co-curricular music program offers numerous opportunities for students to engage with music beyond the classroom, fostering a rich and supportive environment for musical growth.

Music Tuition and Ensembles:

We offer one-to-one and group music lessons across various instruments, including piano, guitar, drums, and vocals. Our school choir, recognized nationally, performs at prestigious events. Various instrumental ensembles and bands, including rock bands and orchestral groups, provide students with diverse performance opportunities.

Progression Opportunities:

Students have access to instrument loans and after-school music clubs, encouraging continuous musical development. Annual participation in Schools Concerts features students from New Road Academy and collaborations with other local schools, showcasing their talents. Music tours to countries like Spain, Italy, Germany, and Ireland broaden students' cultural and musical horizons.

Instruments Offered:

Our school provides a wide range of instruments, including strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and electronic instruments. Tuition is subsidized or free for eligible students through the Telford and Wrekin music service program, ensuring accessibility for all.

Rehearsal and Practice Spaces:

We have dedicated music rooms for individual and group practice, as well as access to recording studios and performance spaces for creating and refining music.

Part C: Musical experiences

Planned Musical Events for the Academic Year:

We organize an extensive program of concerts, including a Christmas music concert, a summer concert, and the Schools Celebration Festival, where other schools perform alongside our students. Regular assemblies feature student performances, providing all pupils the chance to showcase their musical talents. Our annual musical productions, such as “Little Shop of Horrors” and “School of Rock,” involve numerous students in high-calibre performances. We also arrange trips to professional concerts and music festivals to enrich students’ exposure to the music industry.

Student Participation:

Opportunities are available for all year groups to participate in performances, either as performers or audience members, fostering a sense of community and inclusivity. Events are often subsidized or free for parents and carers in particular circumstances, ensuring accessibility for all families.

Partnerships Supporting Musical Experiences:

We collaborate with local music hubs and professional musicians to provide students with expert guidance and enriching learning experiences. Engagement with platforms like Netflix and Britain's Got Talent offers unique performance opportunities that elevate our students' experiences and recognition.

Charging Policies

Our charging policies ensure that all students can participate in our music programs regardless of their financial situation. Detailed information about these policies is available on our website.

In the future

Planned Improvements:

- **Enhancing Curriculum Diversity:** We aim to incorporate more contemporary and world music elements into our curriculum, providing students with a broader understanding of global musical traditions and modern genres.
- **Expanding Music Technology Resources:** We plan to invest in more advanced music production technology, including DJing and remixing equipment. This will allow students to explore modern music creation techniques and prepare for careers in the music industry.
- **Increasing Outreach Programs:** Our outreach programs will be expanded to involve more local schools and community groups. This includes providing workshops and performance opportunities, which will help develop musical abilities in primary students before they join New Road Academy.
- **Professional Development for Teachers:** We are committed to the continuous professional development of our music teachers. This includes training in the latest educational trends and methodologies to ensure they can deliver high-quality music education.

Community and Outreach

Community and Outreach Initiatives:

Performance and Expertise Hub: We act as a performance and expertise hub for many local schools, offering a range of music workshops. This initiative helps to enhance the calibre of students entering our school and supports other schools with their music needs.

Cultural Enrichment: Hosting workshops and shows enriches the cultural landscape of Telford, providing students with opportunities to engage in high-quality musical experiences.

Parent and Community Support: Our large body of supportive parents (PTA) actively engages in fundraising and status-raising for our music and performing arts students. This support is crucial for the success and expansion of our music programs.

Further information

At New Road Academy, we are committed to providing the highest quality music education. Our extensive music program includes a variety of concerts, performances, and educational opportunities designed to foster both creative and academic success among our students.

Achievements and Recognition:

- Our School Choir's national acclaim for their rendition of Sir Elton John's "I'm Still Standing" during the lockdown garnered global media attention and personal admiration from Sir Elton John himself.
- Annual Schools Celebration Concerts bring together over 600 students from various Telford schools, showcasing the depth and diversity of young talent.
- Viral music videos recognized by platforms like Netflix and invitations from Britain's Got Talent demonstrate our innovative approach.

- Annual musical productions, including performances like “Little Shop of Horrors” and "School of Rock," involve numerous students in high-calibre performances.
- Awards such as the School Music Award from Education Business magazine and the Schools Sanctuary Award for our work with refugees, recognized by the Prime Minister’s office.

Music Tours and Cultural Exposure:

We organize annual music tours abroad, providing our choir and bands with the opportunity to perform in countries like Spain, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Ireland. These tours broaden students' cultural and musical horizons.

Community and Outreach Initiatives:

Our community and outreach initiatives include acting as a performance and expertise hub for local schools, offering a range of music workshops and supporting other schools with their music needs. Our large and supportive Parents support group actively engages in fundraising and enhancing the status of our music and performing arts students.

Continuous Improvement:

We continuously strive to improve our music provision by incorporating contemporary and world music elements into our curriculum, expanding our music technology resources, and developing professional development programs for our teachers. Our goal is to ensure that every student at New Road Academy has access to high-quality musical experiences that enrich their education and personal growth.

Additional Sources

The government provides guidance and information on how to develop a love of music inside and outside of school:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/music-education-information-for-parents-and-young-people/what-the-national-plan-for-music-education-means-for-children-and-young-people>

The local Music Hub is Telford and Wrekin Music:

<https://www.telfordandwrekinmusic.co.uk/>

The Arts Council shares a great deal about music and participation:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/MusicEducationHubs>

School Contact Information:

For more information, please contact:

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