

Music development plan summary: Thistley Hough Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	15.10.2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	12.03.2027
Name of the school music lead	Christopher Gaffney Nicky Evans (HOD)
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Tracy Longmore
Name of local music hub	Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service

Part A: Curriculum music

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) – All students receive two hours per fortnight of timetabled Music lessons. The units of work across Key Stage 3 are built upon the essential skills required for musicians: performance skills, compositional skills, core theory knowledge and listening & appraising. The units are planned and sequenced in such a way that all Key Stage 3 students acquire the skills they need to build on this foundation through interconnected threads of the essential music skills, with listening & appraising assessments four times a year, with performance assessed twice a year.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) – All students who opt to study Music at Key Stage 4 receive five hours of timetabled Music lessons across a two-week period. The course that we run for Key Stage 4 Music is the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice qualification. The qualification is divided into three components which take in a wide range of musical genres from all over the world and many different time periods, building on core theory knowledge. These components provide students with an introduction to the industry of music and how this can be applied to the modern-day music industry. The components require students to work both independently and in collaboration with other students, and to develop the skills necessary to improve and evaluate their own skill set and to work as a performer.

Alongside this, the current year 11 students are studying the OCR GCSE Music qualification which requires students to create two portfolio elements to exhibit both

their compositional and performance ability, and to listen and appraise music with the final exam setting.

Curriculum Accessibility – There are no barriers or limitations to learning Music and our curriculum offer is open to all students. Students with disabilities, those with special educational learning needs and those who are in receipt of additional support through Pupil Premium funding, are all expected and encouraged to access the curriculum in the same way as other students. Reasonable adjustments are made for those who require additional support to access the curriculum, and musical resources required for them to learn, to make progress and to succeed in their outcomes. This ensures all students have equal access to the music curriculum.

Additional musical instrument lessons – We are proud to partner with Stoke on Trent City Music Service to provide our students with the opportunity to learn a musical instrument outside of their timetabled Music lessons. We have visiting tutors each week who work with students to learn an instrument in either a one-to-one or small group setting. The additional musical instrument lessons are open to all, and we offer financial support to those who require it, from the Pupil Premium budget. Where possible, students are provided with an instrument that they can take home in order to practice and develop their skills. Our visiting tutors support our Key Stage 4 students to in preparing them for the practical components of the KS4 provision qualifications. We also encourage students to work with their instrumental tutor towards taking graded music exams to gain additional qualifications specific to their instrument.

Part B: Co-curricular music

In partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service, we offer the following musical instrument lessons in addition to timetabled Music:

- Piano/Keyboard
- Guitar (acoustic, electric, classical, bass)
- Woodwind (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon)
- Brass (cornet, trumpet, trombone, baritone)
- Strings (violin, viola, cello, double bass)
- Drum Kit
- Vocals

The cost for the 2026-27 academic year is £214.50 which is recommended to be paid in termly instalments of £71.50. For those who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and require additional financial support, this cost is reduced by £114.50 per academic year with the outstanding balance of £100 subsidised from the Pupil Premium budget.

Students who opt for additional instrument lessons are taught on either a one-to-one or small group basis dependent on cohort size, ability and the level of support required.

Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service also offer students the opportunity to work towards graded instrument exams that are conducted locally and paid for by the students' families (prices vary depending on the grade). These grades can be worked on in the weekly lesson time with the visiting tutors who will support the students and prepare them for the examination.

In addition to this, Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service also provide students with the opportunity to join further orchestras, choirs, bands and ensembles alongside other likeminded young musicians across the city. All these ensembles take place outside school time and are a great way for our students to experience being a musician alongside others, rehearsing together, following instructions from expert subject tutors, and ultimately performing for audiences. These experiences are highly valued, and our students are encouraged to take part in Music outside of school as often as possible.

Within school, students have use of a dedicated Music classroom with two adjoining practice rooms. We have a suite of desktop computers and MIDI keyboards that students use in conjunction with the Bandlab Education website (edu.bandlab.com) to learn and rehearse their performances and to compose and record their own pieces.

Our practice rooms feature both acoustic and electric drum kits, full-size digital pianos, keyboards, and guitar amplifiers giving the students additional spaces to work and rehearse. The practice rooms are also available for KS4 students to use during lunch time and after school hours should they wish to come and practice further. In addition to this we also have a range of instruments that students can access as part of their timetabled Music curriculum.

Key Stage 4 students who have opted for Music benefit from additional intervention sessions based around a formal tutoring program in Year 11 and additional access to the practice facilities through both Years 10 and 11.

Part C: Musical experiences

Throughout the academic year, we take great pride in giving the students the opportunity to learn, rehearse, and perform a full-scale musical. The chance to collaborate with students from other year groups and to produce a show that collaborates acting, dancing, singing, enrichening their cross-disciplines providing students with another platform to showcase their skills and talent.

We strongly encourage as many of our young musicians to maximise their opportunities for performances within school. Throughout the academic year we have events such as open evening, 'welcome to Year 11' evening and awards evening at which we always have live performances from our student musicians.

Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service also hold an annual 'Young Musician of the Year' competition and we are thrilled to have had finalists performing for the last two years. This is another chance for our students to participate in live performance and also introduces a friendly competitive element to the concept of rehearsal and performing in which our students can showcase their ability.

In the future

We are always looking for further performance opportunities within school. Alongside those named above, we will be seeking new opportunities for our musicians, to further develop their skills ready for the industry. For example, this may be in the form of dedicated musical events in which we can invite students and their families to attend school for a concert or talent show.

We will also be looking at the potential to expand our extra-curricular offering for Music, to include additional bands, ensembles, and choirs that students can join outside their timetabled lessons and school hours. We will also be exploring opportunities for students to have broader access to the practice facilities across Key Stage 3 outside their timetabled lessons.

We will continue to invite visiting professionals who can further inspire students and widening their knowledge of worldwide music and industry practice. This can provide opportunities to learn about the careers that may be available within the music industry.

We also wish to arrange for more students to experience live music to increase their cultural capital and broaden their knowledge of live performance.

Further information

<https://www.thistleyhoughacademy.org.uk/>

<https://www.creativeeducationtrust.org.uk/>

<https://stokecms.org.uk/>

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/>

<https://www.abrsm.org/en-gb>

<https://www.rslawards.com/rockschool/>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6061f833d3bf7f5ce1060a90/Model_Music_Curriculum_Full.pdf

[Music education: information for parents and young people - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education>