Music development plan summary: Abbeywood Community School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Natasha Bennetts
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Phil Rouet
Name of local music hub	WEMA West of England Music Alliance
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.

Students in Key Stage Three receive two one-hour music lessons per fortnight. The curriculum is structured around Key Learning Intentions (KLIs) that are standardized across the Olympus Academy Trust and aligned with the model music curriculum. Throughout Key Stage Three, students primarily learn to play the keyboard. Additionally, they have opportunities to play the ukulele, guitar, and drum kit as part of the curriculum. Year 7 students are encouraged to join a Year 7 Choir for our Christmas Concert, performing a song they have worked on in curriculum lessons in terms 1 and 2. As of 2024/25, Y7 will have a singing assembly once every double term to continue singing as a wider thread through the school community.

In 2023-24, Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11) can choose to study either OCR GCSE Music or the BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. However, starting in 2024-25,

only OCR GCSE Music will be offered. Students have five music lessons per fortnight. Currently, 4-6% of the cohort opts to study music at Key Stage 4.

At KS5, students can study BTEC Level 3 in Music Performance within the OAT. Students have 9 lessons per fortnight plus one guided learning lesson.

In addition to their scheduled music lessons, students have the opportunity to take additional lessons provided by WEMA. Currently, we have eight instrumental teachers offering weekly lessons in piano, guitar, bass, drum kit, violin, flute/clarinet/saxophone, brass, and singing. Currently around 80 students take these lessons, which are funded primarily by parents. Students eligible for Free School Meals can apply for a 50% discount on each block of ten lessons at KS3, and 100% discount for those studying Music at KS4.

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.

Students can take instrument lessons outside of lesson time. Parents pay for lessons and can choose from small group, paired, 20 minute individual or 30 minute individual lessons. The cost of lessons is set by WEMA. Remissions for FSM students are set by OAT and the school. Students taking instrument lessons can work towards graded music exams including ABRSM, Trinity, Rock School and Musical Theatre. Teachers encourage students to join ensembles in school as well as the Music Centre Ensembles. The school has some instruments which can be loaned free of charge. Some students opt to loan their instruments from WEMA.

Outside of lesson times students can join Choir or Orchestra which are delivered after school by music teachers. This year, there will be additional lunchtime opportunities available such as a beginner flute ensemble, a pop/rock band club and music tech workshops. We also have around fifteen Music Ambassadors who take on student leadership roles in planning events and contributing to the department. The music department works very closely with the drama department to put on a musical each year and a free matinee is shown to local feeder primary schools. In March 2023, we performed Matilda Jr and in March 2024, we performed Oliver Jr. In February 2025 we will be performing Shrek Jr with a live band of student musicians for the first time in several years. All in school provision is provided free of charge and students can sign up via Arbor. All students are welcome and we provide support for students where a cost might be involved (e.g. provide all materials, costume and free tickets).

The school has 5 practice rooms and two teaching rooms, which are also used for rehearsals and enrichment. Students can sign up to access practice rooms at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school, benefitting from a range of instruments and equipment. Students have formed successful bands who perform at various events. In addition, we work with the school's safeguarding, pastoral and SEND teams to provide space for students who benefit from time to practice musical instruments. The Music department also works closely with the House teams in planning and delivering collaborative events.

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 two main concerts a year – at Christmas and in the Summer which feature the school choir, orchestra and any additional ensembles. Students also form bands which perform as well as small group ensembles and solos. At Christmas, students in the KS4 music classes perform in ensembles as part of their course. Students from all year groups are welcome to participate.

In term 3 students can be involved in the Academy Musical, roles include Cast, Band, Production Team and Tech Team (which can involve sound and lighting) Students from all year groups are welcome to participate, including Post 16. We offer leadership opportunities to Post 16 students and student choreographers/directors.

Most years, students attend a WEMA trip (singing or BSO) which is provided free of charge or at a reduced cost to students.

In the future

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

- Collaborate with a local primary school – ACS students to provide some performances or workshops
- Increase uptake at KS4 and KS5
- Increase uptake of peripatetic, enrichment and KS4 music among disadvantaged groups and SEND.
- Increase participation in enrichment through ensuring all opportunities are clear to parents.
- Continue to develop singing in curriculum, enrichment and the wider school
- Increase performance opportunities to include band events, OAT trust events

- Provide an opportunity for students to enjoy live performance. (BBC Young Musician –Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Jools Holland, Jamie Cullum, Buena Vista Social Club LSO - Bristol Beacon,

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local music hub should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.