

Music development plan summary: Alderbrook School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Sept 2024-July 2025
Date this summary was published	Feb 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Feb 2026
Name of the school music lead	Oonagh Rafferty
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Emma Jones
Name of local music hub	Solihull Music

Part A: Curriculum music

The Music Curriculum is taught with the following disciplines as a focus- performing, composing, listening and analysing. These are embedded across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions. Students are also taught how the elements of music are used effectively across all the disciplines which will enhance their musical knowledge, understanding and terminology.

It is important that in our Music Curriculum, we give students the opportunity to:

- Develop self-confidence through learning an instrument- both in and out of lesson.
- To use their voice as an instrument and explore how this can open pathways to performance opportunities.
- Gain a sense of achievement through performance- both in and out of lesson.
- Encourage students to be creative when composing music- both on an instrument and with music technology.
- Gain an understanding of transferable skills such as perseverance, self-discipline, team work, confidence and self-awareness, and how these can support their current learning but also be used beyond secondary school.
- Learn about careers and opportunities that are available in the Music Industry.
- Listen to wide variety of music in order to broaden their musical repertoire.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum has been structured, alongside guidance from the National Curriculum, to give all pupils the chance to develop musicianship skills, so that any pupil with a passion and skill set for the subject can achieve a Music qualification by the end of Year 11.

At Key Stage 3, students study a range of topics that are designed to spark interest within the subject of Music. It is also designed to encourage those already with a passion or experience in music, to excel. The lessons contain an introduction to the topic, listening tasks, rehearsal, composition or performance lessons and a final assessment. See units below:

- Year 7- Find Your Voice, Body Percussion, Keyboard Course, African Drumming, World Music, Elements of Music, Instruments of the Orchestra and Learning the Ukulele.
- Year 8- Samba, Reggae, Blues, Jazz, Music, Pop Riffs, Film Music, Music Through Time and Festival Planning.
- Year 9- Video Game Music, Rock Anthems and Rock 'n' Roll, Loop Project, World Music, Conventions of Pop, World Music and a Single Release Project.

The Music Department offers OCR GCSE Music Key Stage 4. This course is assessed through composition (30%), performance (30%) and a listening exam. (40%). This course is suited to students who enjoy the more theoretical side of music and those interested in studying the history of music. Students are required to learn about Film Music, Concerto through time, World Music and Conventions of Pop.

We offer A level Music with OCR at Key Stage 5. This course runs similar to the GCSE course in the sense where composition is worth 25%, performance is worth 35% and a 40% listening exam at the end of Y13. For the listening exam, students discover the music of Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven as well as Vocal Jazz artists such as Frank Sinatra and Nina Simone. There are optional units that complete the remainder of the course. Here at Alderbrook we study Instrumental jazz from 1910 to present day and Programme Music from 1820-1910.

Part B: Extra Curricular Music

There is a healthy extra-curricular music programme at Alderbrook School which includes the following

Choir

Orchestra

Rock and Pop Bands

These run before school, throughout the day and after school.

We work closely with Solihull Music and offer an array of instrumental lessons covering vocals, brass, strings, piano, drums, guitar and woodwind. A lot of the students that take lessons are part of extracurricular music groups and take GCSE or A level Music. Students who are pupil premium have their lessons funded by the school and there is a large majority of pupil premium students at Alderbrook that take instrumental lessons.

Students are welcome to rehearse in the music spaces at Alderbrook as long as this has been approved by a music teacher.

Solihull music offer an array of ensembles from the Core Theatre in Solihull where some Alderbrook students take part in these.

Part C: Musical experiences

Every term there is a music concert in the main hall where all ensembles will perform. There are also solo slots for students.

There are regular opportunities to perform outside of school for the students such

Christmas fundraising events at Solihull Hospital

Performing at a near by residents home.

Performing at Rock and Pop nights organised by Solihull Music

Solihull Music Festival at Mell Square.

We also work closely with the Drama and Dance departments at Alderbrook and do an annual show. In the past this has included High School Musical (Dec 2024) We Will Rock You (July 2024) Wizard of Oz (July 2023) and many more. We have a live band for these shows which include students from through KS3 to KS5.

There are also music workshops planned into the calendar to enhance what students both and in out of lesson including Indian Classical Music workshops and Song writing workshops.

More recently, the music department have taken students abroad to enhance their musical experiences and giving them an opportunity to not only play music outside of school but on an international stage. These trips have included Paris Music Tour (May 2023) and Belgium Music Tour (Feb 2025)

In the future

The future of Music of Alderbrook hopes to build on current plans and improve them but developing lessons resources with the inclusion of more ICT. This is a work in progress at the moment and we hop to build this in the future.

We hope to continue to offer GCSE and A level Music and strengthen the numbers of students taking these subjects.

The extra-curricular timetable will hopefully offer more variation of groups as the years progress and we will tailor it to what students enjoy playing.

We hope to continue with the Music Tours as this has strengthen relationships across year groups and has reinforced performances in lessons.

We will continue to work closely with Solihull Music to ensure that students have the opportunity to perform outside of school.

All students in KS3 currently have music once a week and this is likely to continue.