

Music development plan summary: [Helsby High School]

Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2025-26.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mr Gurmakh Singh
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Dr Amy Pritchard-Roberts
Name of local music hub	Music for Life
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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.

At KS3 students follow the national curriculum for Music delivered through singing, composing, performing and writing music on the stave. Our schemes of learning are informed by the model music curriculum, and students receive 1 hour per week across KS3 of music curriculum lessons. All students of all protected characteristics follow the same music curriculum and are supported by Teachers and Teaching Assistants where necessary to enable them to access the full range of musical instruments and curriculum content and skills.

In KS3 lessons students have the opportunity to perform solo as well as in a group ensemble once per term. Students have regular access to piano, percussion instruments, guitar and ukulele, as well as composing on music software. Students will use these instruments in a variety of musical genres including samba, reggae, rock, pop, classical, film music etc.

At KS4 we offer AQA GCSE Music delivered 5 lessons per fortnight. Students cover the three strands of composing, performing and appraising music. Further information about the specification and assessment requirements for this course can be found via the following link:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>

If you would like further information regarding the curriculum map for music including our curriculum intent and schemes of learning, please visit our school website via the following link:

<https://helsbyhigh.org.uk/students/curriculum/>

Part B: Music Tuition and Ensembles

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 study a variety of instruments through a mixture of external and internal providers. Students can study 1-1 music lessons for instruments such as voice, brass, woodwind, drums, guitar, bass, strings etc.

There are several music ensemble opportunities for students. Students can access a variety of ensembles to support students studying any instrument which have several performance opportunities. Our ensembles include choir, orchestra, folk group, rock club, music tech club. Students have the opportunity to make use of resources outside of lesson by rehearsing in their own chosen bands during any break, lunch, or after school. Students can use any instruments within the department and can be loaned selected instruments to support 1-1 music lessons.

The majority of our music lessons are provided by Music for Life and lesson information and prices can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.musicforlife.org.uk/parents/>

If a student would like to study drums, this instrument is provided internally, and more information and prices can be acquired by emailing our finance team:

finance@helsbyhigh.org

NB: Students are able to take a taster lesson before committing to signing up for drum lessons.

All ensembles are free for students to attend. Students should check their enrichment poster in their form room to check whether they are able to attend a particular ensemble.

We have two practice rooms which are available for student use during social time and after school.

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 annually alternate a school musical with a Bound in Sound concert. Our school musical involves a live band to play the music and will draw on all our ensembles. The Bound in Sound concert gives the opportunity for students to play in the prestigious Chester Cathedral with our Frodsham and Villages School Partnership schools. At the end of every academic year, we organise a Summer Showcase which students are welcome to perform at to showcase the excellent musical accomplishments made throughout the year.

Students also have several other performance opportunities throughout the year internally and as part of the wider community. Ensembles are invited to perform at community events such as the Frodsham Christmas Festival and Ho Helsby as well as community parties held on site. Students are also invited to perform during rewards evenings, induction evenings, and assemblies etc.

Students will be invited to perform in these events when part of ensembles. If a student would like to perform as a band or soloist at any event, they must speak to the Head of Performing Arts or Music Lead.

All of our events are charged at approximately 3 pounds per ticket for audience members. Proceeds will go to support future concerts and productions as well as the school's charity fund.

All of our events are supported by our local music hub.

In the future

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

We are committed to improving student participation across our ensembles and future performances which support internal productions, concerts, as well as community events.

In the future we aim to build a culture in which students are proud and passionate in their participation of music ensembles and performances. We hope that students recognise the importance and benefits of studying music as well as taking part in ensembles.

We are working closely with primary schools to support students in their transition to high school and helping students to adjust to the different processes in studying music at high school.

We endeavour to provide opportunities for students to gain music experiences through trips to support their music education and promote interest.

Further information (optional)

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.