

Music development plan summary: Ridgewood School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	December 2024- August 2025
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Claire Moran
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Doncaster Music Hub
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

Our curriculum is designed to help students understand 'how music works' and can lead to GCSE and A Level qualifications in Music and/or Music Technology.

Curriculum Detail

Details of the curriculum for are in the curriculum intent section of the Ridgewood school website here:

[Curriculum design and intent](#), [KS3 overview](#), [KS3 progression](#), [KS3 assessment](#), [KS4 qualification](#)

Curriculum Time

All students in KS3 study Music for an hour a week.

At KS4, students can opt to study Music Technology and will receive 3 hours of teaching a week in year 10 and 3 hours a week in year 11.

At KS5, students can study the Applied General Level 3 qualification in Music Technology. Students will receive 5 hours of teaching a week in year 12 and 5 hours a week in year 13.

Instruments within the Curriculum

During the 3-year KS3 course, students use their voice, popular band instruments, and music technology as the primary sources for developing musical skill and understanding.

Where students play their own instrument there are opportunities for them to use these within our schemes of work.

At KS4 students compose and perform using music technology, instruments, and/or their voices.

There are no requirements for students to have instrumental or vocal lessons as there are pathways through the course for students to complete all performing and composition coursework using music technology (if required).

Our Level 3 Music Technology course offers students the opportunity to develop their skills in working with technology further. There is no directly assessed performance element to this course – so a high level of instrumental skill is not a requirement.

Part B: Co-curricular music

We believe having regular opportunities for students to play and sing music, outside of lesson times helps them make huge progress as a musician. Like anything, the more you do something, the better you get. You can read further details about how we do this below.

Instrumental and vocal tuition

Students are encouraged to continue or take up instrumental and/or vocal tuition when they join Ridgewood School. Currently we have approximately 80 students learning instruments in one-to-one and paired lessons within school. There are more students learning with teachers outside of school too. Details of the instruments that we offer are on the school website [here](#). For qualifying students (Looked After Children and/or Free School Meals) we will fully subsidise these lessons.

The music service also offer bursaries through the William Appleby Trust for whom the cost of lessons would be prohibitive. As part of the instrument package the service provide instruments to loan to students.

We have 6 fully equipped practice rooms which can be booked for independent student practice before and after school and during lunchtimes.

Students are also encouraged to use our 2 iMac suites for production, compositional work before and after school.

We are committed to developing supportive partnerships with our visiting music teachers and see them as equal partners in the music teaching team. Some are involved in delivering co-curricular ensembles in addition to their instrumental teaching.

Ensemble opportunities

Ensembles are designed so that there is inclusivity and progression built into them.

School choir – Rise in Pitch is for any voices from years 7-13 and meets on Wednesday after school. The repertoire draws from popular music styles.

Instrumental group – Opus is for classical instrumentalists (Woodwind, Brass and Strings) and meet on Thursday after school. Students may be from any year group. The repertoire is popular music and a mixture of instrumental and vocal.

Rock school is for students across all key stages who wish to form pop/rock bands, these students meet on Thursday after school. This is designed to help students rehearse and communicate effectively, choose appropriate repertoire for their skill levels, and develop as bands. The students work towards performances at the annual 'Stage Invasion' event. As bands become increasingly autonomous, they are free to book practice rooms to rehearse at other times during the week.

All ensembles work towards performances at the annual Christmas Soiree and Summer Showcase as well as external opportunities.

Part C: Events, Opportunities and Partnerships

There is a musical experience every term. We hold Christmas and Summer concerts that showcase extra-curricular groups, solo and small ensemble performances.

Every year we also host Ridgewood Young Performer in which students rehearse and audition of their own accord. Finalists perform in front of a panel of external judges.

Events Programme

Open Evening (Sep/Oct) is when our year 6s visit the school. In previous years Instrumental group, Rock school and Choir have performed in the department and individual musicians have performed as part of the Headteacher's talk to parents. Students from any year group are welcome to put themselves forward for individual performance.

Stage Invasion (November) is a gently competitive evening which allows for student bands to perform music in a gig environment at the Dome in Doncaster. Entry to the event is via ticket sales.

Academic Awards Ceremonies (Jul) are another opportunity for our school bands, choirs, or individual musicians to perform. These events are free to attend.

Summer Showcase (Jul) This is a showcase of performing arts disciplines and involves Dance, Drama, Art, and Music. In 2024, over 150 students took part in the performance, and we combined this with our work with Arts International and the performance of Shrek. Students apply to be part of the showcase in late June.

Lunchtime Concerts (throughout the year) enable students to have informal performance opportunities with an audience made up of their peers. Any student is welcome to perform as part of the fortnightly concerts and visiting music teachers take the lead in recommending (and often accompanying) students for these performances.

Additional opportunities for 2024-2025

Arts International partnership

Ridgewood school has joined an elite group of four schools in Milan, Nice and in the UK, which have a focus on performing arts training to develop the key competencies.

In 2024 students were able to work on the Musical Shrek both as a performer or through a technical route.

Noise Collective

Students across Key stage 3 can perform live music for the Doncaster festival of Light in November. They will perform music inspired by the artist Morag Myerscough. This is a project funded by Right up Our Street.

Royal Ballet and Opera

An opportunity for students to attend performances by the Royal Opera and Ballet and complete a scheme of learning. This scheme introduced students to the elements of music through the medium of singing and an accessible platform to opera. We explore a range of arias from operas including *The Magic Flute*, and *Hansel and Gretel*, with a focus of performing sections of music which clearly demonstrate particular elements. These include articulation, dynamics, tempo, texture, rhythm, harmony, and melody.

We Compose

Students in Year 8 will experience a live performance from a String Quartet who will perform 4 pieces. The students can then opt to work with musicians from 'Music in the Round' and write music inspired by the initial concert. They will then complete weekly workshops and receive 3 visits and feedback across the project from a professional composer. The outcome will be a live performance of compositions to the year group and parents/ carers.

The University of Huddersfield Music Technology open day

Each year the KS4 and 5 music technology students have the opportunity to visit the university for a campus tour and to complete mixing and mastering as part of their Multitrack unit of study.

Part D: Future Plans

For 2023-24 we taught the new specification Music Technology qualification at Level 2 for the first time, so will continue to develop this into its second year and third year.

There will be no provision for KS5 for Music during 2024-26 but we will be intending to run a course 2025-26.

We would like to expand our provision at Key Stage 4 to allow for GCSE Music to run on the timetable alongside Music Technology, but this will be subject to student uptake.

We are also looking for ways to actively encourage the take up of 'endangered' instruments such as: oboe, cello, double bass, trombone and expand our string and brass teaching further.

There is more work to do to develop our relationships with our feeder primary schools to encourage further musical transition work.

Further information (optional)

Link to the [Doncaster music hub](#)

[NCFE Music technology website](#)