

# Music development plan summary: Ridgewood School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	September 2025 – July 2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the School Music Lead	Monique Goulé
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 100 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 meet on Wednesday after school. The repertoire draws from popular music styles and musicals.

**Instrumental Group – Opus** is for classical instrumentalists (Woodwind, Brass and Strings) and meet on Tuesday 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.

**Production Club** – is for anyone interested in learning more about creating and producing their own music on a DAW. The DAW we use at Ridgewood is Logic Pro X. This group runs on a Thursday afterschool and is open to all students from Y7-13.

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 (Oct)** 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.

**Ridgewood Young Performer (Oct)** This event welcomes auditions from students in three categories: Music, Dance and Drama. During this event, three students in each category will perform in the live final, competing head-to-head for the title of Ridgewood

Young Performer. Performers in this event will also receive warm feedback from guest judges who are experts within their field.

**Christmas Soiree (Dec)** This is a festive event showcasing the talent of students in Ridgewood across Drama, Dance, Music, Cheerleading, Comedy etc.

**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.

## **Additional opportunities for 2025-2026**

### **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.

### **Royal Ballet and Opera**

An opportunity for students to attend performances by the Royal Ballet and Opera 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 the opera Carmen focusing on two pieces of music; The Children's Chorus and The Smuggler's Song. Students develop their understanding of the elements of music, including articulation, dynamics, tempo, texture, rhythm, harmony, and melody.

### **Doncaster Youth Jazz Association**

This academic year, we have secured funding for a small group of students to learn to play the Saxophone on a Tuesday after school. Students are encouraged to continue their instrumental practice at home, with the opportunity to play in a [DYJA](#) band in the future.

### **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 2026-27.

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](#)