

# Music development plan summary: Atherton High School

## Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2023 - 2025
Date this summary was published	06/06/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr James Sowter
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Victoria McNamara
Name of local music hub	Wigan Music Service
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.

Students have the opportunity to study music for one hour per week at key stage three. If students choose to continue their studies into key stage four then they would study GCSE music for three hours a week working towards a qualification awarded at the end of the course.

The curriculum has been carefully designed to meet the requirements of the national curriculum and follows the guidance of the model music curriculum set out by OFSTED. The curriculum is cyclical in design to enable students to become more musical. Students have carefully planned lessons so they can perform, compose, and appraise like a musician would; and know and remember more of the key concepts within music.

Students will begin their journey of learning in KS3 music with singing and drumming, experiencing and learning about making music as an ensemble using rhythm. Students sing new study pieces when they are introduced throughout KS3.

Throughout KS3 students will build fluency with navigating the keyboard, playing with strong technique, learn how to identify chords, and play with both hands independently. Students in year 7 will explore pulse and how to keep time while being creative with rhythm using djembe drums and learn the ukelele and guitar to focus on harmony. In year 8 students have the opportunity to make music with a range of percussion instruments through a unit of work on Latin America and also explore Reggae music through playing drums, keyboard, and guitar. Towards the end of KS3 students will be able to build their fluency on both the guitar and drums as they learn about popular music in the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Secondary schools in the local area hold regular network meetings enabling music teachers from across the borough to collaborate on planning and share good practice as well as building supportive connections for moderation.

Atherton High School also has Music Mark status, and this enables the school and staff to find out about events and training whilst also giving support on how to deliver a high-quality music curriculum.

## **Part B: Learning beyond the classroom in 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.

Atherton High School offers music tuition, lead by Wigan Music Service to all students in both KS3 and KS4 with a recommendation of one lesson per week if studying at GCSE level. This tuition is available on a wide range of instruments or voice and also on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. More information can be found in the links at the bottom.

There are opportunities for students to develop their skills in music and explore their own interests outside the classroom in the extra-curricular sessions that run. Music Enrichment is open to all students who are interested in making music, rehearsing a new song or forming a band with their friends. There is a drumming club available to all students and a choir where students will learn a variety of songs from different genres and eras of music. Rehearsals of the school rock band take place weekly, tailored to students playing instruments at a more advanced level. These clubs are available throughout KS3 and KS4 and free to all students.

There is a rehearsal space that can be booked by students to practice their music during lunchtimes and after school.

Information on when clubs take place or availability of booking the practice room can be found on the notice board outside of the classroom.

[Instrumental and vocal lessons \(wigan.gov.uk\)](http://wigan.gov.uk)

## 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.

During the school year there will be opportunities for students in both KS3 and KS4 to take part in variety style performances showcasing their talent or passion for playing instruments, singing or performing as part of a band. These take place in the Autumn term before Christmas and in the Summer term. Students, parents or members of the community are welcome to purchase a ticket and watch a students perform a variety of musical styles and genres.

Students can find out about how to get involved in these performances from their music teacher or the noticeboard outside of the classroom.

A yearly educational visit to either the Bridgewater Hall or the Royal Northern College of Music, both in Manchester will also give students in both KS3 and KS4 the experience to observe professional concerts in an authentic environment.

## In the future

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

The curriculum is continuously being reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of our students and to confirm that Atherton High School is providing high quality music provision.

All students continue to receive one hour per week in KS3 as part of their timetabled curriculum and students have access to a range of instruments and singing opportunities throughout their music education.

All students have the opportunity to be an active member of the school choir, vocal group or be a member of a band with space for private rehearsals and individual practice.

In subsequent years there will be further planning for more school performances and more opportunities for all students to experience live performance beyond the classroom.

## Further information

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.

Below are some more useful links and contacts.

[Instrumental and vocal lessons \(wigan.gov.uk\)](#)

[Music – Atherton High School](#)

[Music Mark | Leaders in High Quality Music Education](#)