



Music Development Plan – Update and Review

Academic Year: 2025–26

Linked document: Music Development Plan
Summary 2024–25

Music Lead: Richard Nimmo (Head of
Music)

Local Music Hub: Calderdale Music

Date of review: Autumn Term 2025

Date of next review: September 2026

1. Context and purpose of this update

This document provides an update to the existing Music Development Plan Summary (2024–25). It does not replace the original document, but instead highlights key developments, adaptations and priorities that have emerged since its publication in July 2024.

The update reflects ongoing evaluation of curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences, and identifies revised priorities to ensure continued alignment with the Department for Education’s expectations and the National Plan for Music Education.

2. Key developments since the last review

Part A: Curriculum Music – Updates and developments

Planning is underway for the reintroduction of A Level Music, creating a coherent 7-year pathway (KS3–KS5). Departmental resources have been strengthened through new instruments including a grant-funded drum kit, expanded guitar and ukulele provision, refreshed iPads, and planned renewal of the computer suite including a bid for Mac Mini systems.

Part B: Co-curricular and instrumental provision – Updates and developments

Instrumental lessons have increased to 148 including a shortage-instrument brass class. ABRSM entries have risen to approximately 70 students. Provision has adapted with student-led bands rehearsing three evenings per week supported by sixth form mentors, the introduction of a function band, a redeveloped guitar group, and growth of the school band to around 40 students.

Part C: Musical experiences – Updates and developments

The school entered Music for Youth for the first time, performing at the National Festival Fringe in Birmingham and as part of a mass orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall. New initiatives include “Year 7 Sing with the Band”, participation in Boys Sing Up, an international tour to Paris, and the reintroduction of whole-school musical productions, now established annually. The Christmas celebration at Halifax Minster is now an annual event.

The department has strengthened its partnership with Calderdale Music, receiving the Music Mark of Recognition for ambition and quality. Links with two local primary schools have been developed, including performance outreach during a primary performing arts week. The school is currently working towards Artsmark Platinum, with music playing an important role.

3. Impact so far

These developments have increased participation, strengthened progression routes, enhanced leadership opportunities, and deepened community engagement.

4. Revised priorities and new targets (2025–26)

- Implement ambitious Curriculum and Assessment Plans across KS3–KS5 including A Level Music.

- Embed consistent assessment practices, particularly supporting SEND learners.
- Improve attainment and progression for disadvantaged students, APKN students and new KS5 admissions.
- Increase participation and leadership in co-curricular music and celebrate success.
- Modernise music technology provision and specialist spaces.

5. Alignment with DfE expectations

The school continues to meet the expectations of the National Plan for Music Education through broad curriculum provision, strong partnerships, inclusive access, and high-quality musical experiences.