

Music Development Plan summary for Altrincham College

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Ben Madden
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Andrew Eastwood
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Trafford Music Service Trafford Secondary Music Teachers' Group

Part A: Curriculum music

In Altrincham College Music Department we uphold and champion the musical vision set out by Ofsted in the Model Music Curriculum, which expects schools to have *“a music curriculum that is ambitious, well-sequenced, implemented well, and which leads to good musical outcomes for all students.”*

All our students experience stimulating practical and creative musical activities, meeting the expectations of the new Model Music Curriculum. We enthuse our students through engaging, relevant, topic-based musical activities which enable them to acquire and develop a range of confidence-building experiences, knowledge and skills that will lead to a lifelong appreciation and enjoyment of music.

Through varied practical and creative activities, alongside a well-balanced approach to listening material, all students are encouraged to acquire and develop their musical knowledge, skills, experience and confidence, and rise to challenges presented across the three core components of Listening & Appraising, Performing, and Composing.

Key Stage 3

In KS3, our Music schemes of learning contain practical, enjoyable and creative musical activities, allowing all students to experience the joy, and the sense of achievement and purpose, that music brings to life. All KS3 teaching groups have 1 hour of music per week throughout Years 7, 8 and 9.

We teach a 'spiral' curriculum in Music, where core skills, concepts and knowledge are continually revisited through different topics and activities; grown and refined along the learning journey. Over

time, and through a well-sequenced series of stimulating and engaging musical topics, pupils develop their core musical skills of performing, composing and appraising, and acquire familiarity and confidence with the elements of music, forms of music notation, and key genres and contexts.

Each KS3 topic includes summative assessment of students' performing/composing/listening work. We teach and assess a range of musical performance skills in the classroom, including keyboard, ukulele, guitar and singing, and also music technology skills using the Digital Audio Workstation BandLab for Education.

Key Stage 4

The Eduqas GCSE Music specification encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated Areas of Study. The four Areas of Study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context.

The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices (Area of Study 1), and students explore these forms and devices further in the other three Areas of Study. Music for Ensemble (Area of Study 2) allows students to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music (Area of Study 3) and Popular Music (Area of Study 4) provide an opportunity to explore contrasting styles and genres of music.

Part B: Co-curricular music

Music Enrichment Activities

Regular music enrichment activities take place throughout the week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school, 3.15 – 4.15pm. We encourage *everyone* to come along and have a go! Singing together is an amazing and uplifting experience for anyone... and being in a band or orchestra is a brilliant way to enjoy learning an instrument, make friends, and become an even better musician!

In addition, the Music Department is open every day at Break and Lunch times for students to enjoy practising on our large and well-maintained stock of school instruments.

2025-26 Music Enrichment:

Band Skills (all years); Orchestra (all years, instrumental players above Grade 1); Choir (all years); School Production Band (by invitation); annual School Production (by audition, run jointly with Drama Department).

The annual School Production is a great opportunity for collaboration between Drama, Music & Art Departments, engaging students from across the whole school (*Bugsy Malone* 2022; *We Will Rock You* 2023; *School of Rock* 2024; *High School Musical* 2025; *Annie* 2026).

Instrumental & Vocal Tuition

We offer a wide range of instrumental and vocal music lessons in school. Currently this includes: Guitar & Bass Guitar; Drum Kit; Piano, Violin; Flute, Clarinet & Saxophone; Singing.

All our visiting music teachers are highly qualified, have a track record of excellent results with students, and have the enhanced DBS appropriate to working with young people. Lessons take place during the school day on a rota, to avoid the same curriculum lessons being missed. All members of our team of visiting music teachers charge for lessons on the same basis, agreed annually and endorsed by school Senior Leadership.

We are determined that our offer should represent both excellent value for parents and carers, and favourable terms and conditions for our self-employed visiting teachers.

Students who wish to do so can prepare for graded music examinations with their teacher.

Part C: Musical experiences

We aim to give all students the opportunity to experience at first hand the thrill and excitement of live musical performance; both as performers and as listeners.

All Year 7 students begin the year by working on a group of songs for the 'Year 7 Singing Showcase': an event which brings together all our new students, their parents and carers, in October. Then in March of Year 7, all students have the opportunity to hear the world-famous Hallé Orchestra at their annual concert for schools in Manchester's Bridgewater Hall.

We have established an inclusive and varied programme of musical performances throughout the year, providing opportunities for students to perform at events and concerts both inside and outside of school. For 2025-26 these include:

Autumn Term

Open Evening
Year 7 Singing Showcase
GCSE Awards Evening
Christmas Concert
Christmas Assembly

Spring Term

KS4 Live Lounge
School Production
Easter Assembly

Summer Term

KS3 Live Lounge
Altrincham Festival
Summer Prizegiving
Summer Concert
Summer Assembly