Music development plan summary: Nigel Bowes Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Cooke
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Caroline Allen
Name of local music hub	SoundStorm
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

As with all foundation curriculum subjects, music is taught in week-long blocks. We find that, for our pupils, all of whom have SEMH as their primary need, this approach allows them to fully immerse themselves in the subject while minimising the stress and anxiety that transitions between lessons can cause. Specific details about when and how music is taught can be found in our curriculum map.

In line with the Model Music Curriculum, music lessons provide opportunities for pupils to come together, collaborate, and develop positive relationships with both staff and their peers. We are supported by our local music hub, SoundStorm, and benefit from specialist advice to ensure that lessons are appropriately adapted to meet the needs of our pupils while maintaining high expectations for all. This approach supports both musical development and the wider personal, social and emotional development of our pupils.

Part B: Co-curricular 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.

As a proud Thrive Approach school, we regularly use the arts as a vehicle for supporting pupil regulation, emotional development and relational practice. Weekly Thrive sessions provide additional opportunities for pupils to develop their musical knowledge and skills, complementing and enhancing the music curriculum.

The school also facilitates additional music tuition for identified pupils after school and works closely with the Virtual School to secure opportunities for Children in Care.

All pupils have the opportunity to participate in at least one performance each year, including opportunities to sing as part of a choir and perform to a live audience. Given that many of our pupils experience low self-esteem and/or speech, language and communication needs, these performances represent significant achievements and provide memorable opportunities to develop confidence, self-expression and a sense of belonging.

We also offer a half-termly after-school enrichment programme. Across the year, this includes music-focused activities such as singing clubs and music technology clubs, enabling pupils to further develop their interests, talents and enjoyment of music beyond the taught curriculum.

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.

Singing Club – Pupils can participate in a singing club, working towards a performance for an audience. The club is free to attend, accessible to all pupils and typically accommodates up to seven pupils per group.

Whole-School Performance – All pupils are invited and supported to take part in our annual whole-school performance. Pupils who choose not to perform are able to attend as audience members alongside staff, parents, carers and members of the wider community, ensuring that all pupils can engage with and enjoy a live performance experience.

Live Music Now – All pupils benefit from SEND-specialist live music performances delivered throughout the year. Sessions are adapted as required to ensure that every pupil can access and participate meaningfully in the experience.

Leading Learners – Each week, a class shares key learning from a curriculum area or topic with the wider school community. This provides opportunities for pupils to showcase musical achievements through performance and to develop their appreciation of performances by others.

World Book Day – As part of our annual World Book Day celebrations, every class will contribute a musical performance, providing pupils with further opportunities to perform, collaborate and celebrate their learning through music.

Through these experiences, pupils are provided with regular opportunities to perform, create, listen to and appreciate music, helping to develop confidence, self-expression, communication skills and a sense of belonging within the school community.

In the future

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

- Work closely with a music specialist from our local Music Hub to enhance the quality of timetabled music provision. This will include reviewing and refining our bespoke music curriculum to ensure it meets the specific needs of our pupils, alongside providing high-quality training and support for class-based staff.
- Strengthen links between music and emotional regulation. This will include professional development opportunities for staff focused on using music to support pupil wellbeing and self-regulation, aligned with our use of the Zones of Regulation framework.
- Maximise staff expertise to enhance musical opportunities for pupils. Several members of support staff hold singing qualifications, and we will further utilise this expertise to expand and enrich extra-curricular music provision.
- Develop links between music and technology. As part of our PedTech journey, we will review and enhance the use of technology within the music curriculum to support creativity, composition, engagement and accessibility for all pupils.