

# Music development plan summary: *Nottingham Academy*

## 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	Sarah O’Flynn
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ash Newall
Name of local music hub	Nottingham
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

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.

Nottingham Academy provides a comprehensive, inclusive, and progressive music curriculum designed to engage all students, including pupil premium, SEND across both curricular and co-curricular activities. Throughout the curriculum students are encouraged to explore the educational, cultural, and social purposes of music.

Please click on the link below to find further details about the music curriculum in Key Stage 1 and 2, as well as the Primary music development plan.

[Nottingham Primary Academy - Music](#)

Our curriculum intent at Nottingham Academy is to foster an aspirational, knowledge-rich, and carefully sequenced programme that enables all students to develop a deep understanding of music through interconnected ideas, cultural appreciation, and the exploration of musical vocabulary. Rooted in cultural capital, SMSC, and our Academy’s core values, our Performing Arts curriculum aims to nurture creativity, passion, and confidence, empowering all students to

perform and express themselves regardless of any barriers they may face. The teaching staff are experienced and have a deep expertise in a number of curriculum areas.

Our music curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (2021), the National Curriculum for Music (Key Stage 3), and the National Plan for Music Education (NPME) and building upon Key Stage 2. Each topic is carefully planned to build upon prior knowledge, ensuring a progressive and enriching learning journey across all year groups. Year 7 students explore rhythm and notation through drumming, melodic structures in *In the Hall of the Mountain King*, and improvisation through the Blues. Year 8 deepens their understanding with Gamelan ensemble playing, syncopation in Ragtime, folk traditions through Sea Shanties, and structured improvisation in Indian Raga. Year 9 progresses further into ensemble performance with Samba, digital composition in Film Music (Stravinsky), and creative arrangements in *Working to a Brief – Cover Songs*.

For more information, please see the following link which provides a detailed overview of the music curriculum: [Nottingham Secondary Academy - Music](#)

Students explore a wide range of instruments during lesson time through whole-class ensemble teaching in all year groups. This includes an opportunity to sing and play instruments such as the keyboard, guitar, ukulele, drum kit and world music instruments. Each classroom space has a set of PCs utilising Ableton Live for the students to experience using a DAW and create music using technology.

Delivered through high-quality teaching and leadership, Nottingham Academy is a leader in music education within the local community. Students in Years 7-9 receive a timetabled lesson of music as part of their curriculum diet. Our curriculum not only enhances students' musical abilities but also supports their overall wellbeing, confidence, and sense of belonging, reinforcing our school's values while fostering a vibrant and inclusive music-making community. We invest in teacher CPD to ensure our pedagogical approaches are up to date and using the latest research for our young people to develop a secure musical understanding.

Key Stage 4 Music students will follow the Eduqas GCSE course. The GCSE course provides students with the opportunity to develop their performing, composing and appraising skills through an integrated approach. Students will learn to organise musical ideas, use resources, and understand the connections between performing, composing, and appraising. They gain knowledge of various instruments, styles, and music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of music through studying a wide variety of genres and styles of music including Western Classical music, film music, chamber music, musical theatre, jazz and blues music, pop music, bhangra and fusion styles.

## Part B: Co-curricular music

At Nottingham Academy, we offer a wide range of opportunities for students to sing and play music outside of lesson time, ensuring that all learners, regardless of background or ability, have access to high-quality musical experiences beyond the core curriculum. Our extra-curricular music programme is designed to complement and extend classroom learning, allowing students to develop their skills, confidence, and passion for music in a supportive and enriching environment.

### String, Guitar, Piano and Singing:

- **String**  
Students at Nottingham Academy can take string lessons to develop their skills on instruments such as the violin. These sessions focus on technique, posture, and musical expression, helping students progress at their own pace.
- **Guitar**  
Personalised guitar lessons allow students to learn various styles, from classical to contemporary. With tailored instruction, they build confidence in chord progressions, fingerpicking, and performance techniques.
- **Piano**  
Piano lessons offer students the opportunity to refine their musicality through individualised guidance. Lessons cover sight-reading, hand coordination, and dynamic expression to enhance both technical ability and creativity.
- **Singing**  
Vocal coaching sessions support students in developing their voice through breathing techniques, pitch control, and stage presence. These lessons encourage self-expression and confidence, preparing students for performances and musical growth.

### Progression Beyond the Core Curriculum

- **Individual and Group Instrumental Lessons:** We offer peripatetic music lessons in a range of instruments, including piano, guitar, drums, and woodwind. These lessons help students develop their technical ability and prepare for graded music exams if they wish to pursue certification. Students in receipt of pupil premium receive discounted lessons, as well as contributions for any examinations should they pursue this route. We support students in both ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall music examinations.
- **Music Technology and Composition Workshops:** Linked to our Film Music and Blues improvisation curriculum, these sessions allow students to explore digital composition and recording techniques.
- **Performance Opportunities:** Students can showcase their talents in yearly plays, assemblies, and external competitions, helping them to build confidence and stage presence.

Through these extracurricular activities, students at Nottingham Academy can develop their musicianship beyond the classroom, refining their skills in performance, composition, and

collaboration. Our goal is to nurture a lifelong love of music, whether students aspire to professional careers in the industry or simply enjoy making music as a creative and social outlet.

If you have any further questions about the costing for the music tuition, please contact the school's Music Department.

## 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.

At Nottingham Academy, we provide opportunities to perform throughout the academic year.

These include performing in assemblies, musical productions and trips outside of school to ensure the students are provided with a wide variety of opportunities. For example, our annual Culture Day provides the opportunity for students to perform instruments to the wider school which aligns to their own culture.

We arrange musical performances, concerts and shows for all year groups, this can be a particular focus on a certain year group based on the link to the curriculum or for exam group students.

We strive to ensure all students invited on a trip can attend and will accommodate where possible e.g. trips to the local theatre to watch live music.

## In the future

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

We are always improving and reviewing Music within the school both curricular and co-curricular and our aim is to continue to provide inclusive practical music for all students.

We would like to provide more opportunities for students to see live performance outside of school to ensure they have more musical experiences.

Our aim is to offer more in-school music workshops from external providers.

We are planning to provide opportunities to celebrate and challenge our groups and ensembles and be able to showcase this by performing in school more regularly.

## Further information (optional)

Please see link to our local music hub partner via the following website:

[Home | Nottingham Music Hub](#)