

Music development plan summary: Elms Bank

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, cocurricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	25.09.26
Date this summary will be reviewed	25.09.27
Name of the school music lead	J McCorkell
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	C Dent
Name of local music hub	
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Alfa Music Service Nordoff Robbins

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.

Current Curriculum Offer:

Refer to Long Term Plans on Website

Music is taught on a weekly basis to all classes in Key Stage 3. Schemes of work are tailored to the needs and ability of each child. Our pupil pathways are:

- Thrive (Profound & Multiple Learning Difficulties)
- Connect & Discover (complex learning difficulties with autism, sensory processing disorder and/or present challenging behaviours,
- Nurture (SEMH*)
- Explore (complex and severe and thinking barriers to learning*)
- Inspire (complex cognition and thinking barriers to learning*)

**In addition, students will also face additional barriers to learning, such as speech and language needs, communication and interaction needs, hearing impairment visual impairment, autistic spectrum continuum, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, a range of physical disabilities and sensory needs)*

Students on the Inspire pathway have a standalone lesson for 40 mins per week. The remaining pathways have music taught as part of their Creative curriculum (approx 1hr per week) and as part of their Expressive Arts lesson (1 x 40 min session per week)

In KS4 Music is delivered collaboratively with Drama as part of our Performance Arts course (1.5 hrs per week). We offer four exam pathways to cover the wide ability range of our pupils. These include:

- Arts Award Silver (Level 2)
- Arts Award Bronze (Level 1)
- Arts Award Discover & Explore (Pre Entry & Entry Level)

In addition to the music lessons, each week we have a sign a long for 1 hour that is open for all students who wish to attend. Students enjoy learning the signs to their favourite songs each week and perform in groups to each other.

The music curriculum at Elms Bank is informed by the National Curriculum for Music from EYFS to KS3. It has been carefully adapted to ensure it is accessible for all our students, while still maintaining the breadth and depth needed to provide a challenging and engaging learning experience. The curriculum is designed to give students opportunities to explore and play a wide range of instruments, experience a broad variety of musical genres and musicians, and develop their enjoyment of music at every level— whether through composing, performing, or participating as an appreciative audience member. Students who wish to develop their music skills further can sign up for music lessons delivered through our collaboration with ALFA music service or can perform as part of the school choir.

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.

In addition to core timetabled music lessons, Elms Bank offers a range of instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities to all students across the pathways. These include :

- vocal / singing one-to-one and small group tuition
- piano / keyboard lessons
- guitar (acoustic and electric)
- Drum

Elms Bank works in partnership with ALFA Music Service to provide this range of music tuition. Elms Bank subsidises the cost of these lessons to ensure they are accessible for all families. Further support is offered through Pupil Premium funding

We also benefit from having a music therapist on site once a week who works primarily with our Thrive, Discover and Connect students. Students who have been assessed by the music therapist as being responsive to this input receives therapy either in whole class, small group or 1:1 sessions.

We have a school choir that is open to all students regardless of ability. It is incredibly well attended with 142 students. Rehearsals are weekly for 30 mins. Our school choir takes part in many local events and festivals, from the Lowry theatre to local church group events, with the music department organising our own events such as the Christmas and summer concerts, inviting schools and local organisations to perform.

At our college site, we have a Sign a long choir. Again, this is a popular offer for our students, who promote singing and music as an inclusion subject through the use of signing for non-verbal or hearing-impaired audience members.

We also offer a lunchtime karaoke club.

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.

Music plays an important role within Elms Bank School and we take every opportunity to ensure students experience music beyond the classroom environment. A wide range of musical opportunities are available for our students throughout the year, including:

Assemblies –

- Each half term, students select a song which is played as they enter assemblies. Students learn the lyrics as well as the key signs to support inclusive participation.

School trips –

- Our choir performs regularly at events across the year, including local churches, Manchester Christmas Markets, carolling at Morrisons, and both our own and partner school concerts across Greater Manchester. These include performances with Together Trust at The Lowry Theatre and ALFA concerts.
- KS4 students take part in theatre visits as part of their Arts Award experience.
- College students attend events such as Parklife, where they gain insight into the music industry, including behind-the-scenes roles and the logistics involved in staging major musical events.
- School trips are heavily subsidised by school however occasionally we ask for voluntary parent donations.

School concert –

- Our annual Winter Concert takes place each December. Students from across all pathways are invited to perform, and instrumentalists receiving lessons from the ALFA Music Service use this opportunity to showcase their progress.
- We also proudly feature performance work created through our music therapist's sessions within the Thrive department, demonstrating students' engagement and interaction with music.
- Both our main choir and Sign-Along choir participate in this event.

Arts Week –

- Each year students have a full week dedicated to art, music and drama where we invite musicians into our school as part of our program. Each year we host students from the Northern Royal College Music who perform a classical concert, and local bands and musicians who come into school to work with our students.

For the week our ALFA and Nordoff Robbin partners run a series of workshops to students who would not have previously had this input/experience

- Arts week is funded by school and has its own budget.

Drop Down Days –

- We have a range of Drop down days such as World Book Day, Culture Day, etc that often include musicians into school to work with our students. In the past we have had African drummers, Samba dancers, etc
- Drop Down days are funded by school with their own agreed budget

Visiting Theatre groups

- Where opportunities arise, we welcome visiting theatre companies into school. Last year, we were delighted to host Bamboozle on two occasions, delivering performances for our Thrive and Discover/Connect pathways.

School Show –

- The final four weeks of each academic year are dedicated to producing our whole-school show. All students take part, either through performing, creating props, assisting backstage, or helping front-of-house.
- On average, over 120 students perform onstage as part of the main cast or ensemble across four performances over two days.
- In addition to shows for parents and carers, we also welcome local schools from within our Trust and across Greater Manchester.
- The school show is funded through ticket sales, with profits reinvested into the Arts department—for example, the purchase of a new sound system in 2025—and to support future arts events and opportunities.

In the future

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

Key Developments Taking Place This Year

- Review of current Music Schemes of work to reflect the interests and needs of our current cohort.
- To continue to pursue music-based opportunities for our students to ensure they have the chance to perform in a wide range of settings with different audiences.

Key Events Scheduled for This Year

- NRCM Visit for Arts Week
- ALFA Workshops: KS3 classes will take part in ALFA workshops as part of Arts Week, offering more students the opportunity to experience playing an instrument.
- Arts Week will take place from 30th March to 1st April. Planning is currently in place to develop a range of music based activities in addition the events named above.
- Our school show will take place on 13th and 14th July 2027. All students will follow an adapted timetable that will focus primarily on the event, including daily whole school sing a longs to learn the songs and full cast rehearsals.

Choir and Music Performances

The school choir will be performing at the following events:

- SEND Conference at The Village Hotel on 30th September 2026
- Elms Bank Winter Concert on 3rd December 2026
- St Georges Church – December – date TBC
- ALFA Music Festival – Summer term 2027 date TBC
- Togetehr Trust at the Lowry - Summer term 2027 date TBC