

Music development plan summary: Aldercar High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	July 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Kathryn Greenwood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mr Adam Blake
Name of local music hub	Derbyshire Music Education Hub

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our students 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 students and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our students' 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 students can achieve.

Students at Aldercar High School, in KS3, have two music lessons over a two week timetable. Throughout KS3, students have the opportunity to learn to sing, play the djembe, ukulele, guitar and keyboard. Students learn through whole class ensemble, small group, paired and individual tasks. We use elements of the model music curriculum within our planning, in particular for our song of the week music starter activities.

In Year 7 topics studied are:

- **Mad T-Shirt:** an introduction to musical features through a combination of singing, exploring the keyboard, composing and listening tasks.
- **Ukulele:** an introduction to the ukulele following the 'Learn to Play' curriculum which students can access at home through the website to continue their learning. They just need to ask for a student log-in password.

- **Keyboard skills one:** an introduction to learning to play the keyboard including basics of learning to read music and playing with both the left and right hands.

In Year 8 topics studied are:

- **Guitar:** carrying on from the 'Learn to Play' curriculum, students progress onto the guitar. This is the next progression on from the ukulele as it has six strings to the ukulele's four strings. There are resources which students can access at home to continue their learning if they ask their teacher for a student log-in password.
- **Hip-Hop:** students will study the history of Rap and Hip-Hop from the 1970's to modern day through practical activities, composition and listening tasks.
- **Blues:** students will study the history of Blues music through a variety of practical activities, composition and listening tasks.
- **Keyboard skills two:** following on from keyboard skills one, students will learn the next steps of playing the keyboard including more complex rhythms, more two handed playing and more difficult hand positions.

In Year 9 topics studied are:

- **Just Play:** following on from the 'Learn to Play' topics, students will follow the 'Just Play' curriculum. They will explore keyboard, ukulele, guitar, voice and drum kit and then decide which one to specialise in. They will then work to improve their instrumental and ensemble/band skills. There are resources for this topic which students can access at home to continue their learning if they ask their teacher for a student log-in password.
- **Film music:** students will learn about the characteristics of well-known pieces of film music through listening, composition and practical tasks.
- **Keyboard skills three:** following on from keyboard skills one and two, students will progress onto learning to play more difficult pieces of music. They will improve their understanding of reading bass and treble clef, learn more complex hand positions and improve their performing skills.

At KS4, we follow the Eduqas GCSE in Music. Students will have five lessons over two weeks where they work towards improving their music listening, composing and performance skills. At KS4, Students who receive student premium funding can have instrumental lessons funded through school.

In Music we tailor activities to meet the varying needs of our students ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made to maximise every students potential for success within the curriculum. The school specialises in supporting students with hearing impairments. During music lessons students are given equipment that links their hearing devices directly to the technology we use. They are also supported by specialist staff.

As a school, we are supported by the Derbyshire Music Education Hub. They are the main link between us and our visiting instrumental teachers, more information on this can be found in the following section of this summary.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for students to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how students can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

At Aldercar, students can have individual or paired instrumental lessons on the piano, guitar, drums, violin, flute or clarinet. Students who have instrumental lessons have tuition from specialist instrumental teachers on improving their performance skills and may also work towards graded music exams. These exams can later be used as UCAS points towards entry into higher education.

Students can apply for partial funding on these instruments through Derbyshire Music Education Hub. We as a school can help with the application forms and provide more information.

There is a free guitar club that meet weekly in school. Students can join the club after completing the guitar scheme of work in year 8 or if they have experience of playing the guitar previously.

There is also a school choir that meet weekly and work on improving singing and performance techniques.

There is a weekly school musical theatre club. We work towards improving singing and acting techniques along with boosting the confidence of our students. We aim to perform once or twice a year with our musical theatre group.

Throughout Derbyshire there are several music centres that provide opportunities for young people to join ensembles playing instruments and singing outside of school hours. The closest one to Aldercar is South East Derbyshire Music centre based in Ilkeston. They usually meet on a Saturday morning and have three different choirs, several orchestras, bands and instrumental ensembles. Please follow this link for more information <https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/get-involved/music-making-in-ensembles-and-groups/music-making-ensembles-groups-and-choirs.aspx>

Derbyshire Music Education Hub have a great page on their website that has links to more music making opportunities within Derbyshire outside of school time including choirs, vocal groups, ensembles, musical theatre, summer schools and more <https://www.derbyshiremusichub.org.uk/get-involved/get-involved.aspx>

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 Aldercar we like to give our students several opportunities to showcase their music talents each year.

Around Easter time we have our annual performance show where the musical theatre group, choir, guitar club, instrumental soloists and dancers perform to an invited audience of parents. Any student can be involved in this show they just need to look on the daily echo for announcements about auditions.

In the summer term, we showcase the best musical performances to provide entertainment in our prizes and awards evenings.

This year we had a visiting show band perform live music to students whilst delivering some important messages about the Windrush Generation. Next year we are planning to have an Indie band perform live music in school whilst delivering some important messages about mental health.

In the future

Following the key features in the National Plan for Music:

- **Timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school** - Music will continue to be delivered once a week at KS3 with a hope to increase uptake at KS4 in the future.
- **Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice** - Students will continue to have access to private instrumental lessons in school time on piano, drum kit, guitar, violin, flute and clarinet. We will continue to promote singing lessons, we have a teacher on stand-by we just need some students.
- **A school choir or vocal ensemble** – Our school choir meet regularly. We hope to develop our school choir further so that they can perform outside of school at nursing homes or in our feeder schools around Christmas time.
- **A school ensemble, band or group** - Guitar club continues to grow, we hope that these students will have the skills to form a band one day.
- **Space for rehearsals and individual practice** - There is a piano room where students can individually practice and we plan to develop another room this coming year to make it accessible for students to be able to rehearse.

- **A termly school performance** – We have two regular termly performances with the plan to introduce another in the remaining term this coming year.
- **Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year** – we did this year and plan to do this again this coming year by bringing live music into school for students to access.