

Music development plan summary: Aldercar High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	July 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Kathryn Greenwood
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Joanne Powdrill
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 music of the week music starter activities.

In Year 7 topics studied are:

- **An introduction to Music** - an introduction to musical features through a combination of singing, exploring the keyboard, composing and listening tasks.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Blues:** students will study the history of Blues music through a variety of practical activities, composition and listening tasks.
- **Composing One** – an introduction to composing music through standard notation, building on skills from the year 7 introduction topic by adding in chords and harmony.
- **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:

- **Band Skills:** following on from the 'Learn to Play' topics, students will follow the 'Just Play' curriculum. They will explore keyboard, ukulele, guitar, bass, 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.
- **Composing two:** building on skills from composing two students will learn how to use music composition software to bring their compositions to life.

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. We also have links with a charity where we can hire specially adapted instruments and equipment to help students with physical impairments access the curriculum and play instruments alongside their peers.

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 school band that meet weekly. Band is run by one of our visiting instrumental teachers. Students can audition for the band when they are around grade 2 standard.

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

There is a musical theatre club who meet weekly when working towards a performance. 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.derbyshiremusic hub.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.

In the Winter term our singing group work towards performances in the community. Last year we sang at local supermarkets and this year we plan to return to the supermarkets but also sing to residents of local nursing homes too.

Around Easter time we have our annual performance show where the musical theatre group, choir, school band, 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. We also attend the Embark Dance Festival in the summer term where we take some of our dancers to perform and watch others students from school within our trust to perform.

We make sure that all students have the opportunity to watch live music every year in our school with a drop down day where each year group watches live music at a different time throughout the day. We have previously had a visiting show band perform to students whilst delivering some important messages about the Windrush Generation. Last year we had an Indie band perform live music in school whilst delivering some important messages about mental health. This year money has been budgeted for the live music but we haven't booked it yet.

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.
- **Access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice** - Students will continue to have access to private instrumental lessons in school time on drum

kit, guitar, ukulele, violin, flute and clarinet. We will continue to promote singing and piano lessons, we have teachers on stand-by we just need more students to commit to lessons so we can get a regular teacher in.

- **A school choir or vocal ensemble** – Our school choir meet regularly. This year we hope to find more opportunities for our choir to perform starting in the first term.
- **A school ensemble, band or group** – School band meet weekly, this year we would like to add a male singer to band and a reserve drummer. We are going to hold auditions and look at starting a 'starter band' too.
- **Space for rehearsals and individual practice** - There is a piano room and a second room where students can individually practice. They need to book in advance for this.
- **A termly school performance** – We are introducing our third termly performance this coming year and hope to continue with this moving forwards.
- **Opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year** – we have done this for the past two years and plan to do this again this coming year by bringing live music into school for all students to access. We also run a trip for KS4 Music students to see the Halle Orchestra.