

Music development plan summary: Fairfield High School for Girls

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	May 2024
Name of the school music lead	M Crawley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J Gallagher / V McCormick
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Tameside Music Service

Part A: Curriculum Music

Our overarching aim is to create a broad and balanced ambitious music curriculum where pupils are challenged to act, think and speak like a musician. We endeavour to develop a lifelong love and appreciation of Music, create the very best musicians and inspire pupils of all abilities to use Music as a creative outlet. We believe that music has the capacity to improve pupil's employability skills as they develop skills in communication, negotiation, teamwork, motor skills resilience and problem solving.

Music lessons at Fairfield are based around four main musical disciplines; instrumental performance, composition, music technology and music's role in culture and society. Pupils will explore all of these disciplines through a variety of musical styles, in line with the national curriculum. Music is taught mostly through practical music making workshops at KS3, but lessons also include music listening, appreciation and analysis.

Our curriculum goes beyond what is taught during lessons. We are striving to adhere to the National Plan for Music and offer pupils an array of extracurricular musical activities. These include peripatetic lessons, choir, band and an opportunity to perform in various different performances throughout the school year.

In Year 7, pupils receive weekly lessons, Years 8 and 9 fortnightly and Years 10 and 11 are in receipt of 5 lessons per fortnight. This remains the same throughout the academic year.

There are a multitude of opportunities for pupils to engage with music practically during lesson time. Pupils will play keyboards, percussion, djembe drums and ukulele; with activities ranging from whole class performances to small group and solo work. Singing is a central component of music lessons at Fairfield, incorporated both individually and collectively. The use of keyboards and ukuleles allows pupils to explore different musical skills, while African drumming and percussion introduce rhythmic techniques. These varied approaches help pupils to develop a practical application of the theoretical aspects they have explored in lessons.

We currently offer Pearson's BTEC Tech Award Level 1 and 2 in Music Practice. More details can be found on our website: [KS4 Specifications - Fairfield High School for Girls](#)

Pupils with SEND are supported by through the implementation of differentiated instruction and through the use of appropriate teaching strategies – based upon the circumstances of individual learners. The main source of information for this is mostly drawn from Pupil Passports. The music curriculum does allow for a range of flexible options where tasks or activities can be slightly adapted so as not to disadvantage these pupils and to offer them the same opportunities and this is done on a group by group basis dependent on the needs of individual pupils within the classroom.

Pupils who struggle with hearing are placed near the front of classes, whilst others for whom loud noises can be an issue are allowed to use the 'quiet' room in the music classroom. The use of software during composition classes enables pupils to work in suitable pairs and with learning support if available. Teaching assistants are given guidance of what kinds of support would benefit individual pupils in lessons.

Group activities and peer assessment create an inclusive environment, which is essential when supporting pupils with SEND in the classroom. A supportive and non-judgemental atmosphere is fostered and all pupils feel valued and confident to participate. Both musical and social skills are developed through the large amount of group work that takes place within the music classroom and regular positive feedback and praise for small achievements helps to build self-esteem and motivation. Assessment methods at both KS3 and KS4 have been adapted to better suit the needs of pupils. For more information please refer to our policy for SEND on our school website: [Student Support and SEND - Fairfield High School for Girls](#).

We work in partnership with Tameside Music Service (TMS) which forms part of The Greater Manchester Music Hub. TMS deliver our peripatetic music lessons, offer support and guidance to our staff and invite us to take part in various musical initiatives such as "The Big Sing". We also regularly work alongside the Royal Northern College of Music and regularly take our pupils to their college open days. We have links within the sixth form sector and have previously worked closely with BIMM and are now part of Stamford Park Trust working alongside Ashton Sixth Form College.

Part B: Extra-Curricular Music

We are extremely passionate as a school about extra-curricular music and understand the power it has to change lives. We strive to offer a wide range of musical opportunities.

We work alongside Tameside Music Service to offer pupils peripatetic music lessons. These can take place at school or at the Tameside Hub. Lessons can be taught to individuals, pairs or groups depending of the level of need within the school at any one given time. A large range of instruments can be taught including voice, lessons are delivered to pupils of all abilities including beginners. Pupils can also hire instruments from TMS. For more information please see our website: [Music Tuition - Fairfield High School for Girls](#). There is a cost attached to these lessons which varies depending on the type of tuition chosen. For those families whose financial circumstances are preventing them from participating in peripatetic music lessons, we have a charging policy whereupon financial support can be requested. Please see our charging policy for more details: [Policies and Statutory Information - Fairfield High School for Girls](#).

We have a range of extracurricular clubs on offer for our pupils to participate in including school band, jam club and choir. All pupils are welcome to attend the clubs and simply just need to attend the session in order to participate. We also have a small vocal ensemble group "Fairfield Voices" which we audition for each academic year. Pupils should see Mr Crawley if they are interested in auditioning. These clubs are available at lunch time and after school. Clubs are often rotated throughout the academic year, offerings may change on a termly basis. For more information please see our website: [Extra Curricular - Fairfield High School for Girls](#)

We have a music practice room which pupils may use at lunchtime, breaktime or afterschool for their independent rehearsals. Pupils must see Mr Crawley to obtain a pass in order to make use of this facility.

Part C: Musical Events

There are several opportunities throughout the school year for pupils to perform Music at events. This includes our school production, Fairfield's Got Talent, our Christmas service and awards evenings. All pupils are welcome to join the school production and sign up with Mrs Gallagher/Mr Crawley, the whole school attends the Christmas service, pupils audition for Fairfield's Got Talent and pupils whom attend the clubs are selected for awards evenings.

Plans are currently in place to organise several trips. All pupils will be invited to attend the theatre to see a Musical. KS4 Music Students will be invited to attend trips to The

Museum of Liverpool to see the Music exhibition, the Royal Northern College of Music to attend their college open day and also a trip to a recording studio.

There is a cost attached to attending these trips and visits. We always strive as a school to keep the cost as low as possible. For those families whose financial circumstances are preventing them from participating financial support can be requested. Please see our charging policy for more details. [Policies and Statutory Information - Fairfield High School for Girls](#).

In the future

The school is passionate about the delivery of Music and understands the importance of Music in developing the whole child. We are always reviewing and evaluating our current offer and striving to improve in order to offer our pupils the best possible standard of education.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and this will include a review of the Music lesson allocation this year.

Senior Leaders are also exploring options regarding further improving and expanding the provision of Music practice space and technology within the classroom.

We are currently in the process of writing a school song which we foresee being performed by pupils in assemblies. We plan for music to feature within assemblies for heavily going forward.

In addition to this we plan to see Music feature more regularly in our newly introduced STAR Spotting red carpet events which is a celebration of pupils' hard work throughout the week.

Further information

The Department for Education publishes a [guide for parents and young people](#) on how they can get involved in music in and out of school, and where they can go to for support beyond the school. Please click on the link for further details.