

Music development plan summary - Reddish Vale High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026/27
Date this summary was published	7 th July 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	20 th July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Vince Galley
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Claire Evans
Name of local music hub	Stockport Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum music

Music is a universal language that embodies one of the highest forms of creativity. At Reddish Vale High School, we aim to engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of music and their talent as musicians, and so increase their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

The objective / intent of our music curriculum is to teach our students that music is a subject for all, and all students can make progress from their individual starting points. We aim to provide the students with the **skills** and **knowledge** enabling them to study and explore music beyond the classroom and enjoy music as a pastime or profession. We strive to produce independent and resilient musicians and learners.

Our curriculum is a **spiral model**, revisiting skills and knowledge in different contexts, to build upon and embed understanding. Schemes set out pathways for progression in the 3 pillars of interrelated musicianship.

- Our students develop '**technical**' skills to allow them to translate their intentions into sound.
- They develop the '**constructive**' knowledge of how musical components come together analytically and creatively.
- The curriculum allows the '**expressive**' pillar to strengthen as the students become more confident bringing quality, meaning and creativity to their work.

Key Stage 3

The **KS3 Music curriculum** at Reddish Vale fully encompasses the KS3 National Curriculum's aims, attainment targets and subject content. Music at KS3 is delivered to all students in years 7 to 9 through timetabled lessons each week with students receiving 2 hours of music per fortnight in line with the new model music curriculum.

Through KS3 our students learn to:

Perform as a soloist and in an ensemble reading from a variety of notation. Fluency and accuracy of performance are achieved through the teaching of correct technique and the teaching of practice processes. The department provides opportunities for the students to extend their performance skills by studying with our visiting instrumental / vocal tutors and join our extracurricular performance groups.

Improvise and **compose** with increasing skill through the tuition of the processes of melodic, harmonic, textural and structural composition. The students compose in varying genres and to increasingly more details briefs and revisit and review their work.

Listen and **appraise** music and extend their understanding of the use of pitch (melody, tonality and harmony), Dynamics, Duration (rhythm, metre and articulation), Timbre, Structure and Texture. The students also comment on the intentions of the composer, time, place and genre.

The repertoire chosen for our schemes is driven by the musical devices they include and chosen from the best in the musical canon. We aim to cover a wide range of music from different times and cultures.

Key Stage 4

At KS4, Music is delivered as an optional subject. It is allocated 4 hours per week in year 10 and 5 hours in year 11. Students who opt to study music at KS4 study **AQA GCSE Music**. Our KS4 curriculum builds on the solid foundation provided at KS3. Throughout KS4 students continue their musical education through the study of 3 components:

Understanding Music:

Within this there are four areas of study:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 (Compulsory)
2. Popular music
3. Traditional music
4. Western classical tradition since 1910.

Students listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements, musical contexts and use musical language (including staff notation).

Performing Music

Students are given time to develop their instrumental/vocal expertise throughout this component. Students work to create 2 performances, one performance as a soloist and one piece as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of four minutes.

Composing Music.

Students learn how to develop musical ideas, including extending and manipulating musical ideas, and compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions. One is in response to an externally set brief (Composition 1) and the other a free composition (Composition 2).

Music is taught fully inclusively at both key stages, and in mixed ability groups. There is equal access to music lessons for all students regardless of demographic, SEND status, disadvantaged or any other characteristic. Students with additional needs are supported to access the subject and succeed in line with their SEND pupil profiles and the music curriculum has been carefully designed and 'poverty-proofed' to ensure that no students are disadvantaged. As a result of any potential socio-economic challenges. Again, we are exceptionally proud to offer additional instrumental / vocal tuition by our expert peripatetic teachers free of charge to any student who wishes to learn an instrument/voice.

Students at both key stages use and develop their music technology skills. Students at KS3 use online music technology platforms such as BandLab for Education to support with their composition skills and to develop their understanding of music technology tools themselves (e.g., sequencing, sampling, mixing, effects etc.). At key stage 4, students further develop these skills by using applications including MuseScore and Cubase.

Part B: Co-curricular music

In addition to core timetabled music lessons, we offer a range of instrumental and vocal tuition opportunities. These include:

- vocal / singing one-to-one and small group lessons.
- piano / keyboard lessons
- guitar (acoustic and electric) and bass guitar lessons
- drum lessons.

As well as these we offer the following extra-curricular opportunities to students:

- Lower School Vocal Group
- Upper School Vocal Group
- Keyboard Club
- Ukulele Club
- African / Samba Band
- Steel Pans
- Music Technology Club

Students regularly undertake their own informal solo and ensemble practice by accessing the facilities in the music department before school, during social times and after school each day. This results in student-led bands and vocalists emerging organically which are then further supported by music staff.

Part C: Musical experiences

We aim to give all students the opportunity to experience at first hand the thrill and excitement of live musical performance; both as performers and as listeners.

There are opportunities for students to perform at events such as the Year 6 Open Evening, Christmas Concert in collaboration with the Drama and Dance department, Plaza Awards Evening and Summer Showcase in collaboration with the Art department each year. These events are well attended by other students who enjoy experiencing live music. Reddish Vale stages a full-scale musical theatre production each year which provides students with opportunities to sing, act and dance. In 2026 we finished the academic year with a spectacular production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' creating strong links with the Art, IT, Drama and Dance departments. Other recent productions include Beauty and the Beast, Shrek and Matilda.

In the future

Reddish Vale high School is fully committed to further developing and enhancing the provision that is in place for our students.

- Closer Links to Local Music Hub - Attend all meetings with Stockport Music Service and create network with local schools for further CPD.
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice - With our scheme in place for students to access free instrumental and vocal tuition, we are now looking at how we can further widen the range of instruments on offer to provide an even better musical provision.
- The Lower / Upper school choirs are well established and continue to grow year on year. We have plans in place to further widen the scope of students involved in the choir (increasing boys' participation) and vocal ensembles, with plans to work more closely with primary schools in the local area.
- KS4 Resources - Placing a bid to fund more Digital Audio work-stations to increase numbers at KS4 GCSE music.
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year - Plans for 2026/25 include ensuring all students experience a minimum of 1 live performance outside of the classroom (e.g. Music Theatre visit or Young Voices Concerts)

Further information

Here you can find further information, including links to our local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

<https://www.stockportmusicservice.org.uk>

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.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-power-of-music-to-change-lives-a-national-plan-for-music-education>