Music development plan summary: Great Arley School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2027
Name of the school music lead	K. Easton
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music	L. Weaver
Name of local music hub	Lancashire

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.

Primary

Our musical pathway begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is delivered through "My Music" from the Equals Semi-Formal and Informal Curriculum which continues throughout KS1 and KS2. Class teachers deliver lessons in these classes. Music is taught as a separate subject and woven into the entire curriculum, enabling learning through music to be as meaningful as possible for all students. Throughout Primary classes, students learn and engage with music through exploring, collaborating, creating, performing and listening.

KS3

Students from Year 7-9 receive music lessons every other half term, which are informed by the model music curriculum, (March 2021). In KS3, students are taught by our specialist music teacher. The Lancashire Music Hub Scheme forms the basis of the music curriculum, including the Charanga Music School and YUMU, which is delivered during class lessons for one and a half hours per week. Students sing songs, including popular, historical and traditional songs,

learning voice production, articulation and Makaton signing. Students learn to play musical instruments in a whole class setting, including ukulele, guitar, keyboards and samba drumming. Students learn to compose, notate and appraise music and use music technology. Students work with a wide range of classroom instruments and play within instrumental ensembles. Students enjoy performing in assemblies and to wider audiences throughout the year.

KS4

Students in KS4 can choose music as one of their options to study in years 10 and 11 where they participate in the Lancashire Rocks programme with Lancashire Music Service. In partnership with our own specialist music teacher, a specialist teacher from LMS leads these sessions and equipment is provided for students to set up their own rock bands in school.

Students have the opportunity to play a range of instruments including the guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, drum kit and hand sonic drums, keyboard, piano and vocals. Students perform during class lessons, assemblies and many events during the school year including A Celebration of Music at Blackpool Opera House, Special Schools Music Festival at Ribby Hall and our Christmas Show in school.

All work undertaken is based on five core principles:

- Students learn music that they choose, like and identify with
- Students learn by listening to and copying recordings
- There is an integration of listening, performing, improvising and composing
- Students learn in personal ways and alongside peers

Students are also given the opportunity for individual instrumental lessons in guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, piano and drums and are encouraged to take ABRSM instrumental exams on their chosen instrument. Links with local FE colleges enable students to study Music Technology using Apple Mac software (Logic Pro X). Qualifications offered in KS4 include Trinity Arts Bronze Award, AQA Unit Awards and ASDAN Personal Development Programmes.

Students also have the opportunity to continue with their Music studies at Blackpool and the Fylde College post 16.

Part B: Extracurricular 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.

We have a thriving choir, which any student and member of staff is welcome to join, students are taught songs, (both in unison and in parts) and are given instruction in voice production,

articulation and Makaton signing. A high standard of performance is aimed for, with students singing at events throughout the school year, both locally and nationally in addition to their performances in school. These events include Young Voices at the Co-op live Arena in Manchester, A Celebration of Music at Blackpool Opera House and the Special Schools' Music Festival at Ribby Hall.

Key Stage 4 students are given the opportunity for individual instrumental lessons in guitar, bass guitar, piano or keyboard, ukulele and drums through Lancashire Music Service. Our instrumental teacher visits the school weekly and instructs students in our dedicated performing arts studio. Students are encouraged to take ABRSM instrumental exams on their chosen instruments.

Individual and small group lessons are offered to students at a small cost, however for those students who are Pupil Premium, these lessons can be subsidised using Pupil Premium funding.

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.

Students will have the opportunity to perform or experience high-quality music this academic year. See below for a list of those opportunities

- EYFS and Primary students perform termly at the Primary Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter Assemblies.
- All students from EYFS to Year 11 are invited to perform in the Christmas Show.
- The Choir and Rock Band perform at the Year 11 Leavers assembly in June.
- The Choir, student ensembles and soloists perform in assemblies throughout the year in school.
- Key Stage 3 and 4 perform in the Special Schools Music Festival at Ribby Hall.
- Key Stage 4 Rock Band and choir perform in 'A Celebration of Music' at Blackpool Opera House.
- The Choir perform at the 'Young Voices Concert' at Manchester Co-op Live Arena.

Careers Education Through Music

Music education at Great Arley School helps students develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for future education, employment and adult life. Students are encouraged to explore the wide range of career opportunities within the music and creative industries

Throughout their music education, students will have opportunities to:

- Meet and learn from visiting musicians, performers, music teachers and industry professionals.
- Engage in workshops delivered by specialist practitioners.
- Visit local music venues, recording studios, theatres, colleges and creative workplaces to gain an understanding of different career pathways.
- Explore post-16 progression routes in music, performing arts and creative industries.
- Develop transferable employability skills including teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, leadership and creativity through rehearsals, performances and collaborative projects.
- Participate in live performances and community events, helping them to understand how musicians and creative professionals work in real-world settings.

These experiences support students in making informed choices about their future aspirations and help them to understand how music can lead to a variety of rewarding educational, employment and volunteering opportunities.

In the Future

In future years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- To review, evaluate and update the music curriculum across all key stages.
- To resource and further develop the Equals Semi-Formal and Informal Curriculum, "My Music," by class teachers.
- To develop opportunities for singing across the curriculum and increase opportunities for performances throughout the school year.
- Further develop both school and wider performance opportunities for our young musicians throughout the school year.
- Increase student engagement in extra-curricular music for pupil premium students.
- Increase student participation in wider community performances such as music festivals.
- To develop the KS4 Choices curriculum for students in music including greater opportunities for students to experience live performances.
- Further develop and create opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence needed for future education, employment and adult life through career opportunities within the music and creative industries

K. Easton

Curriculum Lead, Music

September 2026