

Music development plan summary: Hilltop School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Geoff Hunton / Morgan Webb
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Joanne Grantham
Name of local music hub	Rotherham
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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

Music is taught at Hilltop School as part of the Expressive Arts' Curriculum. A weekly Expressive Arts' opportunity is planned for and will include elements of Music and Art across each half term.

Music lessons are linked to class 'themes' and give students the opportunity to develop skills in listening and appreciation, singing and signing, exploring and playing musical instruments and composition.

Many of our children love to listen to music and songs, so we ensure our lessons include opportunities to learn to sing and sign a series of core songs which link to class and whole school themes. Many of our children demonstrate greater engagement in learning through songs.

Through our partnership with Rotherham Music Service, our students have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument as part of whole class music lessons, this is currently the Ukulele.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

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

As part of our Lunchtime Children's University Clubs, all our students have the opportunity to become part of our Makaton Choir. They learn to sing and sign songs for pleasure but also in preparation for choir events throughout the year. In addition, a weekly Karaoke club is enjoyed by students on our secondary site.

As part of our secondary Enrichment offer, our students can choose to take part in music for pleasure activities.

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.

As part of our whole school themes across the year, our students have opportunities to listen to, and learn to sing and sign a range of songs linked to the themes. They learn these in class in preparation for whole school events such as Harvest Festival, Christmas performances and carol concerts and Summer Festival.

In collaboration with Children's University and Nexus Multi-Academy Trust, our Makaton Choir learn a range of songs which they perform at the annual Hands in Harmony concert event, a special performance in a venue where choirs from each school come together and enjoying singing and signing together for an audience of families, friends and local dignitaries.

Our choir love to perform and do so frequently in our half termly celebration assemblies and at local community events. They have been invited for the last 3 years, to attend the South Yorkshire's Children's University Conference and sing and sign for up to 200 delegates.

Through Rotherham Music Service, students have the opportunity to experience live music throughout the year. They love coming together in the hall to immerse in live music being played by professional musicians. In addition, our Choir have attended Rotherham Minster Christmas Concert to give them an opportunity to perform with

peers in mainstream schools and in a place of worship, giving them an awe and wonder experience.

We have an established connection with a local SEND music group, whose band 'The Banned' come to school and perform for our students. This event allows our young people to see other young people like them enjoying and performing and give them an idea of the kinds of activities they can choose to do in their leisure time when they reach adulthood.

All the opportunities are available to all of our young people and at no cost. We want all our young people to be involved in any way they wish to.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

Our curriculum development includes continuing to prepare an appropriately sequenced and structured curriculum to ensure skills and knowledge are being developed sequentially. The development of the curriculum will include purchasing a range of musical instruments for students to experience.

We are currently working with the Rotherham Music Service to develop an offer for individual music lessons. This will give opportunity for those students who have an interest or talent to develop this further.

We continue to identify opportunities for our school choir to perform at events beyond school. We will shortly be attending a regional event where they will sing and sign with 'singing and signing duo 'Singing Hands'.