

Outwood Academy Shafton Music Development Plan summary:

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.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026–2027
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the school music lead	Jake Steeper, Head of Performing Arts
Name of SLT member with responsibility for music	Esther Littlewood
Name of local music hub	South Yorkshire Music Hub (delivered locally by Barnsley Music Service)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

At Key Stage 3, all pupils receive one hour of timetabled music each week across Years 7, 8 and 9. The curriculum is genre-led and practical: pupils learn through performing on keyboards and in ensembles, composing, and listening to and appraising a wide range of styles.

Year 7 establishes the foundations — the elements of music, basic keyboard technique and an introduction to notation — through units on popular music, the orchestra, blues and reggae. Pupils write their first short compositions in the blues and reggae units.

Year 8 widens the historical and stylistic range with units on writing a new popular song, classical and romantic music, and film music. Notation is taught explicitly, pupils meet music technology for the first time, and composition becomes a named task rather than an incidental one.

Year 9 is designed as a bridge into Key Stage 4. Units on the British Invasion, disco and band skills move pupils from individual keyboard work into genuine ensemble playing, and each unit carries a composition brief and a GCSE-style listening element. Pupils sit a mock appraising paper in the summer term.

At Key Stage 4, Year 11 are completing Eduqas GCSE Music and receive 6 hours of curriculum time a fortnight. The course is assessed across three components - performing, composing and appraising - and is built on four Areas of Study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, and Popular Music. The set works are J. S. Bach's Badinerie from Orchestral Suite No. 2 and Africa by Toto.

From September 2026, Year 10 follows the Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice instead of GCSE, following a review of GCSE outcomes. Parents were written to in September 2026 to explain the change. The BTEC is a practical, project-based course of equivalent size to one GCSE, built around three components - Exploring Music Products and Styles, Music Skills Development, and Responding to a Music Brief - worth 120 guided learning hours in total. Year 10 receives the same curriculum time as Year 11.

Pupils with SEND access the full curriculum. Keyboards, notation software and adapted resources are used so that every pupil performs, composes and appraises alongside their peers.

Part B: Co-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.

All co-curricular music is free and open to every year group, with no audition.

When	What
Monday, after school	Band Practice, Years 7–11
Wednesday, after school	Choir, Years 7–11
Friday, after school	KS4 Composition Clinic

Pupils also have access to one-to-one and small-group peripatetic tuition in brass, percussion, guitar, bass guitar, piano, woodwind and strings. Lessons are arranged through the department and delivered by visiting specialist teachers. Instruments are available to hire, and pupils in receipt of

free school meals are eligible for support with the cost of both tuition and hire through the local authority's remission scheme, so that cost is not a barrier to starting an instrument.

Practice space is available: the department has two music classrooms, both with class sets of keyboards, alongside a drama studio. Pupils may use them at break, lunch and after school by arrangement.

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.

Pupils perform publicly at least once each term:

- Christmas Concert - December. Whole-school, all ensembles, open to families free of charge.
- Year 11 Showcase Concert - March. GCSE performers present their examination repertoire to a live audience, which doubles as preparation for the performing component.
- Summer Concert - July. Ensembles, peripatetic pupils and soloists.

Pupils also perform at the Year 6 Open Evening each September, and choir and band members represent the academy at community events during the year.

Every pupil in Key Stage 3 experiences live music-making within school through these events, whether as performer or audience.

In the future

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

Our priorities for the next two years are:

1. Run both KS4 pathways well. Year 11 complete Eduqas GCSE Music; Year 10 have moved to the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice.
2. Strengthen composition across Key Stage 3. A progressive composition strand is being introduced so that pupils arrive at Key Stage 4 having composed independently in each of Years 7, 8 and 9.

3. Grow instrumental uptake. A new sign-up and financial-waiver route is being introduced so that registering for lessons is straightforward for families and no eligible pupil misses out on remission.
4. Widen the ensemble offer. Choir and Band Practice are established; the department is reviewing opportunities to add to the co-curricular offer as staffing allows.