Music Development Plan summary: Rivington & Blackrod High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	November 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	February 2027
Name of the school music lead	R. Eames
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	J. Stephens
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bolton Music Service

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.

Details regarding the school music curriculum can be found here: https://www.rbhs.co.uk/Curriculum/Music/

Students are allocated one 60-minute lesson Music per week at KS3, five per fortnight for GCSE and four per week for BTec Level 3.

Music at KS3 offers our students a wide range of different types of music from different eras, places and genres, and is informed by the Model Music Curriculum (March 2021).

Singing is embedded in the curriculum throughout the whole of KS3.

Our pupils have repeated opportunities to develop keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drumming skills in whole-class lessons. Through these practical activities they develop their ability to read music notation.

Students compose music on a DAW (Digital Audio Workspace). They also listen and analyse a variety of music.

At KS3, students work through our own bespoke booklets which contain all resources to support the practical learning which takes place in class.

We offer AQA GCSE Music at KS4. At KS5 students can study BTec Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performance.

Instrumental lessons are free for KS4 & KS5 students and if appropriate, graded music exams can be studied with instrumental tutors.

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.

RBHS Music Department has seven visiting peripatetic tutors, who offer tuition on the following instruments:

• Piano

• Voice

• Violin; Cello

• Flute; Clarinet; Saxophone

• Brass

• Guitar

• Bass Guitar

• Drum Kit

This tuition is usually one-to-one (although may be in twos or threes at beginner level) At KS3, parents/carers pay for these lessons.

GCSE and BTec students enjoy free group lessons of 20 minutes.

The department has four practice rooms where students regularly rehearse. They are open before and after school, and at breaks and lunchtimes.

All pupils, regardless of standard, are encouraged to join school musical ensembles as an enjoyable way to develop their singing & playing ability. Music ensembles

sometimes change depending on the needs of current pupils. RBHS Music Department's current offer is set out below:

- Choir (open to all)
- Senior Choir (open to KS4 & 5 Vocalists)
- KS3 Music Technology Club (open to all pupils with an interest)
- Whole school musical production (open to all)

These ensembles form the basis of our annual Christmas Celebration and Presentation Evening performances. Other items in these events include solo items and other ensembles. Students are strongly encouraged to form their own bands, and the department is open before and after school, and at breaks and lunchtimes in order to facilitate this.

RBHS Music Department is active in the local community. We have links with the local council, and the Wind Band and choir perform at the Horwich Christmas Lights Switch On each year. In addition, we have worked in partnership with local music venue The Ramp to facilitate KS5 performances as part of the BTec course.

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.

Musical experiences planned for the forthcoming academic year include:

Performance opportunities

• Annual Whole-school Musical production (Charge for tickets)

• Annual Christmas Celebration (Free event)

• Annual Presentation Evening (Free event)

• Occasional music, for example at Open Evenings & RiviFest (Free event)

• Community performances, for example Horwich Christmas Lights (Free event)

Musical experiences

- Trip(s) to the theatre to see musical productions
- Trip to FE providers for live music events

The vast majority of musical performance opportunities are open to all pupils.

In the future

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

Curriculum Music

- Continue to grow numbers of pupils studying music at KS4 & 5
- Develop facilities available in practice rooms, including recording equipment.

Co-Curricular/Community Opportunities

- Explore opportunities for the development of KS5 qualifications with the aim of encouraging greater numbers continuing to study music at RBSF.

Further information (optional)

Use this space to provide any further information about your school's music development plan, including links to your local music hub partners, other local music education organisations and contacts.

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.

Your local music hub should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that should include useful information.

If your school is part of a multi-academy trust with a trust-wide music development plan, you may also want to include a link to any published information on this plan.