Music development plan summary:

Dixons Trinity Chapeltown Academy – Leeds

This document is designed to give a summary of the high-quality music provision at this academy in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, considering the key features in the national plan for music education:

- timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for Key Stages 1 to 3
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2027
Date this summary was published	October 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2027
Name of the academy music lead	Natalie O'Shea
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Ellie Nendick - Secondary Performing arts lead Angelique O'Garo - Primary Headteacher Bethan Roberts – Primary Music Champion
Name of local music hub	Art Forms Music, Leeds
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Dixons Academies Trust - Director of Music, Tamsin Rafnsson

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.

- Students in EYFS-Y6 have 1 timetabled music lesson per week.
- Students in Year 7 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson per week
- Students in Year 8 have 1 timetabled curriculum music lesson per week
- Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 have the option to study music at GCSE level (Eduqas specification)

- More details on the intentions of our curriculum and the skills and the curriculum overview can be found here: Dixons Trinity Chapeltown | All-through curriculum
- The curriculum is informed by the model music curriculum and is built on the four pillars of musical learning; understanding, skills, experiences and knowledge.
- Aligning with our Trust's focus on the joy of learning we focus on high quality teaching and excellent culture in lessons, opportunities for success and difficulty, underpinned by clear routines, behaviour and relationships. There are opportunities for students to engage in music accross the curriculum for example songs in maths meetings and key techniques songs to help rettrieval in writing.
- Students explore performing, listening & appraising and composing during their music lessons and develop skills individually and as a team in group work.
- The curriculum incrementally builds so that each time a student comes back to a skill they should be developing and improving their skills in that specific area e.g. keyboard performance work.
- The curriculum is both accessible and challenging for all, so that every student is capable of achieving their personal best under the expert guidance of a specialist teacher, supported by information in students individual INIP's, which helps us to adapt our teaching to meet the needs of every child.
- In Primary we use the scheme Get Set 4 music which has a wide range of diverse and enriching topics such as: Nursery rhymes, folksongs, Samba and much more.
- In key stages 1 and 2, students develop their singing voices and play tuned and non-tuned percussion instruments.
- At Key Stage 3 students will sing and play a wide variety of instruments including keyboard, djembes, handheld percussion, tuned percussion (glockenspiels). In addition, they will get the chance to experience creating using computer software Bandlab Education.
- At Key Stage 4 students work towards the Eduqas GCSE music specification and study a variety of set works in preparation for the listening and appraising paper, prepare solo / ensemble performances on their chosen instrument and create compositions using specialist music software in a bespoke music technology suite. Lessons are practical, but also cover all the knowledge and skills need to understand the theory of music (reading scores and understanding musical symbols and key terminology) and also identifying features of music through focused listening tasks.
- All teaching is highly responsive and adapted to the wide range of needs and abilities of students, including those who have entered the academy on a performing arts place.
- All lessons consider equity, diversity and inclusion; this includes choice of repertoire to cover a variety of genres, cultures and music from around the world, and watching to / listening to performances which aim to represent everyone from our diverse community at Dixons Trinity Chapeltown.
- All students opting for music are encouraged and supported to take peripatetic lessons on their choice of instrument, and through this have the additional option of entering for external graded exams.

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.

- In the primary phase, students have the opportunity to attend extra-curricular clubs and music is played at lunchtimes and playtimes for student enjoyment. Music is also used in primary recognition events such as opportunities for silent discos using the Now Press Play headsets and Artforms workshops. There is also opportunity for children to take part in choir which perform to parents and at in school events.
- In addition to the secondary central curriculum lessons outlined above, all secondary students at the school have access to a range of peripatetic instrumental / vocal lessons which are taught on a 1:1 or paired basis for 20 minutes dependent upon grade and experience.
- We also have a stock of instruments that students can loan for free dependent upon availability as follows; violin, acoustic guitar and bass guitar.
- Secondary peripatetic lessons are subsidised by the school.
- All students studying music at GCSE level in Yrs 9 - 11 will be supported to access lessons on their chosen instrument / voice and given the opportunity for 1:1 lessons.
- We offer students with SEND the opportunity to learn an instrument or voice as part of their individual plan.
- Students wishing to practise their instruments outside of the academy day i.e. before or after school can make use of the 2 practise rooms we have available and should speak to the Head of Performing Arts to agree this beforehand.
- The range of lessons offered are as follows; violin, electric and acoustic guitar, bass guitar, piano, keyboard, singing, drum kit and percussion.
- We also offer Choir and Musical Theatre club in preparation for the show.

- Extra-curricular clubs are an excellent way for students to develop and progress on their chosen instrument, and also provide valuable social experiences as students from all year groups mix together and enjoy their love of music making together.
- All students having peripatetic lessons have opportunities to enter for a wide range of well recognised external examinations such as ABRSM, Trinity and Rock school grade exams both theory and practical.
- Our students also benefit from additional free provision within our music co-curricular where students can develop new skills and enhance their love of music through a song writing option.
- We aim to increase the joy students gain from their music making through removing as many barriers as possible so that they can participate and explore their love of music both inside and outside of the academy.

Part C: Musical Events and opportunities

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.

In the primary phase, professional musicians and performers are invited to the school (e.g. Hip Hop Phil and a Samba drumming workshop) to promote opportunities for students to apply and demonstrate their developing musical knowledge and skills. We organise in school opportunities such as performances to parents and summer fayre with a choir performance. We will also be taking part in the trust-wide Collaboration Concert this year.

In the secondary phase, ensembles will run every week and all groups will get the opportunity to perform in the planned musical events this year:

Academy Open Evening – in September. Students from Year 7-11 performed for all families as they entered the academy. Plus music ambassadors helped welcome families to the music department where they played keyboard / drum kit or explored the music software.

Dixons Cup – the music department encourages students to enter solo performance work to be considered for commendation and Bronze, Silver and Gold awards as part of the Trust Wide Dixons Cup competition. These opportunities are offered at various points in the year – this year we hope to offer this during Cycle 2. Students participating in external extra-curricular events can also be eligible to collect participation points for their academy towards the final total at the end of the year.

- Trip to see a Panto during the Panto season.
- Trip to see a play in the New Year.
- Winter Talent Show – Wed 15th Dec. (This event will be a collaboration of Music, Drama and Dance. This will involve most of the ensembles plus a mixture of solo and duet performances and will involve students from Year 7-11. Students wishing to participate should see the Head of Creative Faculty). Free tickets.
- School of Rock musical theatre performance – April / March.
- GCSE Year 11 Solo Performance Exams (recordings in the music department) at various points during the year.
- In addition to the above planned events, we are always liaising with Leeds Conservatoire to provide any other enrichment opportunities or expeditions for our students.
- Dixons Trust Collaboration Concert 2027 – Soloists, duets and ensembles to perform from Year 7 – 11 – Wed 14 July at St George's Hall, Bradford.

In the future

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

We are constantly trying to ensure we offer the best musical opportunities to our students. Please see below some of the things we are planning for this year and beyond to maintain and build on our current provision:

Primary curriculum:

- We are ensuring all teachers and students have adequate access to a range of instruments for their music lessons. We will be working together with secondary staff to ensure this happens.

Outside the primary Classroom:

- We will be looking into 1:1 peripatetic lessons and how we can subsidise this for our vulnerable families.
- We will be looking to extend our extra-curricular offer to offer more music clubs.

Secondary Curriculum:

- We are looking for ways to increase the provision of computer access within the music classroom to allow every student to have an individual space where a computer linked to a midi keyboard when we work on music software.

Further information

Please find below some useful links which you may find helpful when considering your child's musical experiences inside and outside the academy:

- Eduqas GCSE music
- Leeds Junior Conservatoire
- The National Plan for Music Education
- The Model Music Curriculum
- 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.
- Get Set 4 Music