

Music development plan summary: Kettlethorpe High 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	Ilana Bebbington-Slater
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Fiona Agnew
Name of local music hub	Wakefield Music Services / West Yorkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	n/a

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.

Our curriculum is designed to be broad and ambitious, aligning with the principles of the Model Music Curriculum to develop students' musical skills, creativity, and understanding. Through our curriculum planning, we ensure that music remains an integral part of the school experience, with clear progression pathways for students at all levels.

At Kettlethorpe High School students receive high-quality music education throughout Key Stages 3 and 4. The music curriculum for each year group can be found here:

[Curriculum Overview - Performing Arts - Kettlethorpe High School](#)

Timetabled Music Lessons

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8): Music is taught 2 hours per fortnight, covering the National Curriculum and beyond.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE Music): Students receive 4 hours per fortnight, following AQA GCSE Music specification. There are two classes per year consistently enrolling in the course, with approximately 26 students per year group. We have a strong track record of student success, demonstrated by positive Progress 8 scores across all cohorts in the last four years;

- 2022: +0.23
- 2023: +0.94
- 2024: +0.75
- 2025: +0.3

Our results always outperform 'similar school' from exam board data.

In addition to our in-school qualifications, we actively support students who wish to pursue external music qualifications by providing:

- Access to specialist instrumental/vocal tuition through Wakefield Music Services.
- Opportunities for students to develop performance portfolios through concerts, showcases, and competitions.
- Opportunities to take graded music exams through instrumental and vocal lessons in school. These are available for the following exam boards:
- Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music
- Trinity College London

Inclusion in Music

Kettlethorpe High School has a strong focus on inclusion, ensuring that all students have access to high-quality musical opportunities. We actively promote and embed inclusive music-making across our curriculum and co-curricular programs.

- Music is accessible to all students, including those with SEND, through differentiated teaching strategies and a broad, flexible curriculum.
- Fully funded instrumental lessons for Pupil Premium (PP) and Looked-After Children (LAC) to ensure financial barriers do not prevent participation.
- Additional support provided to help PP and LAC students attend and engage with instrumental lessons.

- Funded music trips for KS4 PP students where they are directly linked to the exam syllabus.
- Choir led by Hannah Zelei-Good (Wakefield Music Services Vocal teacher) is funded by the school as a wellbeing resource, ensuring all students have access to communal singing and the benefits of music for mental health.

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.

Kettlethorpe High School is committed to ensuring all students have access to musical opportunities and the support they need to progress in their musical education. We actively work to remove barriers to participation and provide clear pathways for student development. We provide several opportunities to perform and listen to live music outside of lesson time.

Ensembles

Our students have access to a variety of ensembles that cater to different musical interests and skill levels:

- Concert Band
- Soul Band
- Choir, run by Hannah Zelei-Good (Wakefield Music Services vocal teacher), fully funded by the school as a wellbeing resource.
- Folk Band, run by Helen Sugden (Wakefield Music Services strings teacher).
- Open-door policy for practice rooms – students can book these for solo practice at breaktimes and at lunchtimes for ensemble work throughout the week. These are primarily used by rock and pop bands.

Rehearsal opportunities

We promote group work and individual practice. Students have several opportunities to engage during the school day:

- Practice rooms are available for students to book at break and lunchtime.

- Performance intervention – 1:1 rehearsal and tuition with music teachers for GCSE performances.

Supporting Instrumental and Vocal Tuition

We work closely with Wakefield Music Services, and other local private music tutors to ensure high-quality instrumental and vocal tuition is available to all students.

- Over 100 students currently accessing Wakefield Music Services instrumental and vocal lessons within school.
- To support equitable access, the school fully funds group instrumental lessons for Pupil Premium (PP) and Looked After Children (LAC) students, ensuring financial barriers do not prevent engagement in music.
- Several of our students attend Wakefield Music Service's Manygates Music Centre, where they are involved in numerous additional ensembles and performance opportunities.
- Several of our students are members of Wakefield Youth Orchestra and Wakefield Youth Choir
- Additional support provided to help PP and LAC students attend and engage with instrumental lessons.

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.

Performance Opportunities

Our students have several opportunities to perform and listen to live music throughout the academic year:

- Annual events and showcases, including:
 - School Show
Approximately 40 performers.
Public performances in December and a dress-run during the day for local primary schools.
 - Spring Showcase
Approximately 30 musicians performing.

- Rock the Quad
Approximately 30 musicians performing.
- Bi-annual concert tour
Approximately 40 students.
Three public concerts in a week, usually in Germany.
- Wakefield Big Sing
Attended by the school choir.
Public performance to parents and local primary school children.
- Performances at Awards Evenings
Featuring the concert band, solo and ensemble performances.
- Performances at Open Evenings
Featuring soloists and ensemble performances.

Competitions

Each academic year, we provide students with opportunities to compete, should they wish to. This academic year, students are involved in;

- Annual 'Kettlethorpe High School Young Musician of the Year' competition.

Trips and Workshops

Our students engage with professional music settings through trips and workshops, such as:

- Musicals at Leeds Playhouse
Attended by students largely in KS3.
- Hallé at the Bridgewater Hall
Attended by GCSE students and BTEC L3 students.
- Workshop delivered by Royal Marines Band Scotland
Attended by KS3 and 4 instrumentalists.

PP GCSE Music students receive free tickets for the Halle concert as this directly links to the exam.

Student Leadership in Music

- Kettlethorpe Music Ambassadors' run the practice room booking system.

- Ambassadors help to maintain and repair instruments (e.g. changing guitar strings)
- Student voice plays a key role in reviewing and shaping co-curricular music opportunities, ensuring that clubs, ensembles, and workshops reflect the interests and needs of students.
- Students take part in transition events to help promote music in school to year 6 and 7 pupils.
- Students are often independent in their preparation of concert performances.

In the future

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

- To develop student leadership across the department and school.
- To develop numbers of PP pupils engaging in instrumental lessons
- To work closely with Wakefield Music Services to develop transition activities to increase continuation of instrumental and vocal teaching from KS2 to KS3.
- To embed new schemes of work reflecting the changes to the AQA GCSE Music set works for first examination in June 2026.
- Deliberate practice of our new assessment scheme at KS3 which ensures the reflection of practical and listening weightings of the GCSE.