Music development plan summary: Freehold Community Primary Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025- 2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Daniella Cuschera
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Paige Greenwood / Daniella Cuschera
Name of local music hub	Oldham
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Oldham Music Hub

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.

At Freehold Community Primary Academy, the music and performing arts curriculum is carefully designed to be ambitious, inclusive and sequential, enabling all pupils to develop their knowledge, skills and confidence over time.

The school follows the Kapow scheme of work, underpinned by clear long-term overviews that ensure progression across year groups. This can be found on our school website under the curriculum section.

In Year 4, pupils receive weekly woodwind tuition, providing opportunities to develop instrumental technique and musical understanding.

Pupils are given opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. A weekly school choir offers a range of high-quality performance experiences, including participation in Young Voices, performances at a variety of local community establishments.

The curriculum is enriched through regular opportunities for collective musical participation. Whole-school singing assemblies mark key celebrations, including Christmas and Eid, promoting inclusivity and a shared sense of community.

Dance forms part of the physical education curriculum and is delivered by a specialist teacher, ensuring high-quality provision. Additional lunchtime clubs provide further opportunities for pupils to explore a range of dance styles and musical genres.

Pupils' cultural capital is developed through weekly assemblies that introduce a breadth of musical genres and significant artists. A dedicated Music Day, centred around 'Dream Big' themes, further enhances pupils' engagement and aspiration within the arts.

The curriculum is further enriched through experiences such as attending a pantomime during the Christmas period, contributing to pupils' wider cultural development.

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.

At Freehold Community Primary Academy, additional music provision is structured to be inclusive, aspirational and responsive to pupils' needs, ensuring that all children, including those eligible for pupil premium funding, have equitable access to high-quality opportunities.

Targeted small-group tuition is provided weekly by a specialist music teacher to support the development of a school band. These sessions focus on nurturing individual talents and building pupils' confidence and collaborative performance skills, with financial support in place where required to ensure full participation.

Choir provision is well-established and inclusive, with opportunities available to pupils from Year 3 onwards. Pupils benefit from both small-group rehearsal sessions during the school week and an additional after-school club, enabling sustained practice and progression. Additional singing opportunities are built into the wider curriculum, particularly in preparation for key celebration assemblies such as Christmas and Eid.

The school provides dedicated space for pupils to practise and rehearse independently during break and lunchtime, fostering autonomy and a sustained interest in music.

The curriculum is further enriched through instrumental opportunities, including the provision of woodwind instruments for Year 4 pupils. Families are also supported to access wider musical opportunities through signposting to the Oldham Music Service, including information about free or subsidised tuition beyond the school day.

The school actively seeks to broaden pupils' cultural capital through participation in large-scale musical events, such as Young Voices and potential performances at the Bridgewater Hall, with consideration given to ensuring equitable access for all pupils.

Strong partnerships are being developed with external organisations, including the Oldham Theatre Workshop, alongside collaboration with music leads across the trust. These partnerships support ongoing curriculum development, staff expertise and the quality of provision.

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.

At Freehold Community Primary Academy, collective musical experiences are planned to strengthen pupils' participation, confidence and sense of community, while supporting the progressive development of musical knowledge and performance skills.

Music is integrated into whole-school assemblies, where pupils are regularly engaged in shared singing. A structured approach is taken in the lead-up to key celebrations, with all pupils learning and rehearsing a common repertoire over time. For example, in preparation for the Christmas assembly, pupils progressively practise a selected song during weekly assemblies, culminating in a whole-school performance.

The curriculum is enriched through a range of live and immersive musical experiences. Pupils have opportunities to attend performances such as pantomimes during the festive period, contributing to their cultural development and enjoyment of the arts. Participation in large-scale events, including Young Voices and performances at the Bridgewater Hall, further enhances pupils' exposure to high-quality music and performance environments.

The school seeks to provide regular opportunities for pupils to experience live music within the school setting. This includes inviting bands, performers and theatre groups to deliver performances and workshops, for example through partnerships with

organisations such as Oldham Coliseum Theatre. These opportunities are structured to be inclusive and age-appropriate, with provision tailored across phases (e.g. EYFS and Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2), and designed to encourage active pupil engagement.

In addition, pupils' musical awareness is developed through regular exposure to a diverse range of artists, including those with local links to Oldham. Music is incorporated into daily routines, such as during classroom transitions, to broaden pupils' listening experiences and appreciation of different styles and cultures.

In the future

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

The school is committed to the continued development and enrichment of its music provision, with a clear focus on increasing participation and broadening opportunities for performance.

Plans are in place to expand opportunities for the growing school band, ensuring that pupils are able to further develop their skills through regular practice and high-quality performance experiences. The school intends to provide the band with opportunities to perform beyond the school setting, including participation in local festivals and events, in line with those currently accessed by the choir.

Looking ahead, the school aims to further strengthen its musical offer by developing a more integrated approach between the band and choir. This will include exploring opportunities to combine these groups into a larger school ensemble, enabling pupils to collaborate and perform as part of a collective musical group.

The school will continue to actively seek and establish new partnerships, festivals and performance opportunities, ensuring that all pupils benefit from a rich and varied musical experience that supports their cultural development and aspirations.

Further information (optional)

The school is committed to strengthening and sustaining partnerships that enhance the quality and breadth of its music and performing arts provision.

Plans are in place to further develop the school's relationship with the Oldham Music Service, ensuring that pupils benefit from specialist expertise and wider musical opportunities. The school also aims to establish and embed effective working partnerships with organisations such as Oldham Theatre Workshop and Oldham

Coliseum Theatre to enrich pupils' access to high-quality performance and creative experiences.

The school will continue to build and maintain strong links within the local community, supporting pupils' sense of belonging and providing meaningful opportunities for engagement beyond the classroom.

A key priority is to further extend access to a wide range of musical and cultural experiences for all pupils at Freehold, ensuring these opportunities are inclusive and aspirational. In addition, the school will continue to support parents and carers by providing information about opportunities beyond school, enabling pupils to engage with music provision within the local area.