Music development plan summary:
Holmfirth High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	1 September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	1 March 2027 (mid-term) and 1 July 2027
Name of the school music lead	Mr Charles Reed
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Rachel Beatson (Line Manager)
Name of local music hub	Musica Kirklees as link organisation for West Yorkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Patchwork Music Jam Factory Creative Kirklees

Part A: Curriculum music

Music at Holmfirth High School is a high performing, academic, and creative subject. The curriculum planning is bespoke and is informed by best pedagogical practice, the model music curriculum, local primary schools, our local link organisation for the music hub (Musica Kirklees) and other link providers such as Patchwork Music. The music curriculum is a spiral of increasing complexity where each strand of music is developed over the five years of a child's education. This year we are focussing on reviewing that sequencing for each year group to ensure that the challenge is right. Music lessons are not a tour of styles from across the world. We work closely with our music hub, Musica Kirklees and another peripatetic teacher provider, Patchwork Music.

Pupils have the opportunity to:

- perform on a variety of instruments, including their own
- sing with increasing complexity
- improvise and compose music using a variety of techniques and in different styles
- use industry standard music technology
- listen with to a wide variety of musical styles and genres
- use the inter-related dimensions of music to articulate to analyse music
- read and write notation

These activities are delivered through whole class singing and performance lessons, class bands, small group working, and individual or paired work on music technology whichever is most appropriate to the concepts being learnt about.

Allocated time for music per fortnight:

Year 7:	two hours per fortnight
Year 8:	two hours per fortnight
Year 9:	two hours per fortnight
Year 10:	five hours per fortnight
Year 11:	five hours per fortnight

We run one GCSE qualification in music which follows the Eduqas specification.

Our curriculum focuses for the academic year 2026-27 are:

- continue to implement a culture of singing where pupils develop an increasing complexity over time.
- review the challenge of some of the linear aspects of the curriculum including notation and the interrelated musical dimensions.
- develop pupil independence so that pupils can make more rapid progress and rely less on teacher input for their own development.

Part B: Extra-curricular music

We work closely with Musica Kirklees who offer one to one and small group lessons on all musical instruments and have a high number of pupils accessing lessons within the school day. We also work with Patchwork music who provide lessons on; guitar, bass, drum kit, and piano.

This year we are running the following ensembles which will be reviewed at the mid-term review point after the school show (School of Rock) finishes at the end of January. Last year music ensembles ran from lunch time into form time to allow a more significant amount of time to rehearse and this will continue into this academic year.

- Choir — Thursday lunch from 1.30 – 2.25
- Orchestra — Wednesday lunch from 1.30 – 2.25
- Guitar Ensemble — Thursday lunch from 1.30 – 2.25 (Musica Kirklees)
- School of Rock (SoR) Singers — Wednesday lunch from 1.10 – 1.40
- SoR Band — Wednesday after school from 3.30 – 4.30
- Step up to GCSE — tbc (Patchwork Music)

At lunch time the department opens its doors to pupils wanting to practice on their instrument and a number of ensembles use the department to practice.

All of our PP pupils are offered the opportunity of a one-to-one music lesson for 20 minutes. We have a discretionary budget which supports a number of pupils who are not ‘PP’ but we recognise as needing support.

We encourage pupils to attend Music Centre on a Saturday morning at another local secondary school and other groups which happen regularly in the week including Patchwork ensembles on a Friday night at Red Ledge.

Part C: Musical experiences

This year our performances will include:

- Carol Service — Monday 14 December
- School of Rock — Monday 25 – Friday 29 January
- Arts Week — Monday 1 February – Friday 5 February
- Summer Showcase — Thursday 27 May

Music staff also contribute the organisation of the variety show performances at Christmas and events where musicians play such as the Year 11 Celebration Evening and Open Evening.

All year 7 pupils will attend a pantomime in Leeds.

All year 8 pupils will see live classical music through their cultural capital day.

All year 7 and 9 pupils will see performances from local musicians including the Jazz Band ‘The Big Easy’, ‘Deadwax’ and ‘The Bureaus’. Deadwax and The Bureaus are two groups who formed at Holmfirth High School.

In the future

2027-28

We have begun the process of planning another join project between us and the organisations we work with for the benefit of our pupils. In 2022-23 we commissioned a local composer form Musica Kirklees to write a piece for the pupils at Holmfirth High and two feeder schools to be performed at the Regional Festival of music for youth where it was well received. This led to an invitation to the National Festival in Birmingham to perform.

Last year (2025-26) we entered our choir into the regional festival of music for youth and were again invited to the National Festival in Birmingham.