

Music Development Plan Summary 2026-27 Medeshamstede Academy

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-27
Date this summary was published	September 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2027
Name of the academy music lead	Becky Houghton
Name of academy leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Peterborough Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our academy delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, wider music provision/opportunities 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 academy offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum Music

This is the information about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

Music is an important part of our Creative Arts Curriculum. Our curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum and provides a broad range of musical opportunities and experiences that are adapted and personalised to meet the individual needs of our students.

Music is delivered by class teachers and enhanced through visiting music specialists, workshops and support from Peterborough Music Hub. Creative Arts sessions take place weekly within our Explore and Investigate pathways, providing students with regular opportunities to experience, enjoy and engage with music.

Within the Discover pathway, music is used flexibly throughout the provision to support students' engagement, communication, sensory exploration and emotional regulation. Music also forms part of Me and My World, providing opportunities for students to experience sounds, rhythms and music through meaningful and motivating activities.

Within the Explore pathway, students are introduced to a range of musical instruments, sounds and concepts through sensory experiences and natural exploration. Students are encouraged to develop curiosity, engagement and awareness as they explore music in ways that are meaningful to them.

Within the Investigate pathway, students build on their previous experiences and develop musical skills. They are encouraged to make choices, communicate preferences, experiment with instruments and sounds, and increasingly use music as a means of self-expression and creativity.

As students progress into Key Stages 3 and 4, they also have opportunities to work towards an Arts Award at a level that is appropriate to their individual abilities, interests and achievements.

We recognise that music is much more than developing musical skills. It provides valuable opportunities for students to express themselves, communicate, make choices, develop confidence and creativity, and connect with others. Through accessible and meaningful musical experiences, we aim to ensure that every student can participate, achieve and experience the enjoyment of making music.

We place importance on the idea that Music is an important lesson for pupils to express their creativity and develop their communication.

Part B: Wider Music Opportunities

This is about the opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils at our academy can make progress in Music beyond the core curriculum.

Alongside our music curriculum, we provide a range of opportunities for students to experience, enjoy and participate in music beyond their weekly Creative Arts sessions. We believe that every student should have opportunities to engage with music in ways that are meaningful, accessible and enjoyable.

We are developing a school choir, giving students the opportunity to come together, practise and prepare for musical performances. The choir provides an inclusive environment where students can develop their confidence, communication, sense of belonging and enjoyment of performing with others.

Throughout the year, we invite local musicians and performers into school, enabling students to experience live music and creative arts from a variety of cultures, traditions and genres. These experiences help to broaden students' understanding of the world around them while encouraging curiosity, engagement and an appreciation of different forms of creative expression.

We also recognise the important role that music can play in supporting the wellbeing and regulation of our learners. Music is used throughout the school day, where appropriate, to create calming or stimulating environments, support transitions and provide opportunities for sensory and emotional regulation.

Part C: Musical Experiences

This section sets out all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

Throughout the year, students are given a range of opportunities to share and celebrate their musical achievements. This may include performing within their class, taking part in assemblies or sharing their learning with parents and families. Performance is always approached in a way that is appropriate to each student, allowing everyone to participate and experience success in a way that is meaningful to them.

We aim to provide a wide range of sensory and interactive musical experiences, enabling students to experience music through sound, touch, movement and exploration. Activities may include exploring instruments, responding to different sounds and rhythms, singing, moving to music and participating in shared musical experiences. These opportunities encourage students to develop engagement, anticipation, communication, choice-making and self-expression.

Above all, we recognise the therapeutic and inclusive power of music. Whether listening, exploring instruments, singing, moving, performing or simply enjoying music alongside others, we aim to ensure that every student has opportunities to connect, communicate, express themselves and experience the joy of music.

In the future

At our academy we have an ambition to enrich, broaden and continue to develop the opportunities and curriculum provision for Music. In this section we set out what this could be and what we hope to achieve.

We will continue to embed, develop and evaluate our Creative Arts curriculum to ensure that it provides meaningful, engaging and accessible opportunities for all students. Having established and strengthened our Art provision, our next priority is to further develop Music across the school.

A key focus will be staff development and confidence. We will provide opportunities for CPD, practical training and shared learning so that staff feel confident in delivering engaging musical experiences. In turn, we want our students to develop their own confidence, curiosity and enjoyment of music.

We will promote the enjoyment of singing and shared music-making, using Makaton signing alongside songs where appropriate to support communication, participation and inclusion. We recognise that taking part in music can look different for every learner, and we will celebrate all forms of engagement and contribution.

Working with Peterborough Music Hub, we will expand the range of instruments and musical experiences available to students. This will include access to a set of djembe drums, the development of a percussion trolley to support whole-class music sessions, and opportunities to explore and develop sound bath and sensory music experiences using specialist instruments.

We will continue to be creative and open-minded in finding new ways to remove barriers to participation, ensuring that every student has opportunities to create, explore and perform. Our approach will recognise that musical achievement may be demonstrated through listening, movement, anticipation, vocalisation, instrument exploration, choice-making, shared interaction or performance.

We will also seek to develop stronger relationships with musicians, specialists and organisations within our local community, creating opportunities for students to experience live music, workshops and other inspiring musical encounters.

Further Information

Ultimately, our aim is to develop a vibrant, inclusive and accessible music culture across the school, where staff and students feel confident to explore music together and where every learner is given opportunities to participate, communicate, create, perform and experience the joy of music.