

Music development plan summary: Westhoughton High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	Sep 25-26
Date this summary was published	Sep 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	Sep 2026
Name of the school music lead	Rachel Jacobs
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Kim Gough
Name of local music hub	Greater Manchester Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Bolton Music Service

Curriculum music

From September 2024 Music will be taught for one hour each week to Year 7 and Year 8 students with Years 9 on a carousel with drama on a half-termly basis. As our Music development plan rolls out, each subsequent Year 7 cohort will access music on a weekly basis throughout KS3. Students are able to take Music as an option at KS4 where they receive 3 one-hour lessons per week and we currently offer Music GCSE.

Music lessons have an emphasis on practical activities to embed knowledge, making them accessible for all learners, using IT facilities to enable students to engage with modern music making techniques as well as conventional instruments and traditional notation. Students currently have the opportunity to learn keyboard skills, Samba drumming, Ukulele and rock band instruments as part of their weekly lessons.

Westhoughton High School's Music curriculum can be viewed [here](#). As we expand our curriculum to include more music at KS3 the content is continually under review and is being designed taking into account the National Plan for Music and the Model Music Curriculum.

Extra-curricular music

Working with Bolton Music Service we offer one-to-one and small group lessons for a wide range of instruments, including voice, keyboard and piano, drums, guitar, woodwind, brass and strings. In these sessions students can work towards graded examinations with ABRSM, Trinity Guildhall or RockSchool. We have a variety of instruments that can be used in school and there is the opportunity to hire instruments from Bolton Music Service on an individual basis.

Students pay for their shared or individual lessons directly through the music service and the school is in partnership with Bolton Music Service to provide small group lessons free of charge to students who are in receipt of a Pupil Premium Grant.

There is a school choir who rehearse weekly and perform regularly throughout the year at school and interschool events. The school band also rehearse weekly and perform at Christmas and in the school Summer show. Both these groups are open to all year groups and are free to take part in. The music department also facilitates rehearsals for other pupil-led bands so that students can make progress in music outside of lesson time.

Musical experiences

Each year KS3 take part in Young Voices which is a series of national choir events where hundreds of schools and thousands of children perform together in major concert venues throughout the country. The choir also performs at school awards events and an annual local concert event consisting of Westhoughton schools.

The school band provide music for the Christmas celebration and the school show, providing valuable rehearsal and performance opportunities which enrich the musical experiences for those who get involved.

Bolton Music Service run a number of extra-curricular groups covering a range of musical genres from rock bands to orchestras.

Plans are in place to take advantage of partnerships with local professional orchestras to increase musical experiences for students through concert trips in order to increase the opportunities for students to engage with live music in events they might not have access to otherwise.

In the future

September 2026 will see the final stage in the expansion of the music department to enable the growth of our music curriculum so that each year group in KS3 receives an hour of music each week.

Further information

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.

Your local music hub should also have a local plan for music education in place from September 2024 that will include useful information. Please see [here](#) for information about the Greater Manchester Music Hub.

For more information about one-to-one and small group instrumental and voice lessons please see the information on the Bolton Music Service website [here](#)