

Music development plan summary: [Toot Hill School]

At Toot Hill School, we aim to deliver a curriculum for music that embodies the world today while at its centre are fundamental knowledge and skills that all children should know. Outside of our curriculum, we have a number of enrichment activities that all students can be a part of, tailored to all abilities.

We offer one lesson each week for our KS3 students where they have the opportunity, in year 7, to learn two instruments. Students will play either the Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone or Clarinet as part of their curriculum time for half of the year and spend the rest of the year with academic music staff who will give them a foundational knowledge of music, including the ability to read Western Notation. In year 8 and 9, students will learn in depth about the Elements of Music and how they can apply to various topics within music and contexts within the wider world and history. Students will have the opportunity to break out into additional spaces to work in groups independently from a teacher, with support and guidance at regular intervals. Music technology is a key part of the industry today, and across year 8 and year 9, students are introduced to a variety of software's to compose pieces of music in varying styles. All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24.

At KS4 and KS5, the school has seen growth in numbers post-COVID with academic music gaining a strong reputation within the school. Students have the ability to delve further into the world of music through our chosen exam board Eduqas for both GCSE and A Level. Students will learn various performance practices, techniques in composition and an application of theoretical knowledge through appraising. This breadth of knowledge will test the demands of student's resilience, independence and tenacity to manage complementary components, but meet deadlines over a long period of time.

Each year we offer trips for students to see live music in the form of an Orchestra or to the Theatre to give practical context to the GCSE and A Level courses.

Outside of the classroom, we offer a number of enrichment activities, from Rock Band and Function Bands, Concert Band, Flute Choir, Brass Ensemble, String Orchestra, Choir all the way to a full Symphony Orchestra. Students have the opportunity to perform in whole school concerts throughout the year, as well as additional opportunities arranged by our team to enhance the school life of our students.

With a large team of peripatetic tutors, we offer individual lessons for a variety of instruments, including Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Bass), Drum Kit, Piano and Voice. These are either 20 or 30-minute lessons where students develop their abilities on one-to-one basis.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	September 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mr K. Seymour
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs H. Rothwell
Name of local music hub	Nottingham Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

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.

Music is accessible to all at Toot Hill, and our curriculum has been carefully designed to include all students, but to also challenge students at every ability when they join us at the school.

We have committed to a pledge to provide the opportunity for all students to learn two instruments as part of their music education in year 7. Every young person should have the opportunity to learn an instrument and experience what it is like to play a variety of instruments. We offer Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone and Violin to our students, giving them lessons in two of these across half of the academic year. In the remaining time, students learn the fundamental knowledge key to any students journey in music. This includes rhythmic notation, Western notation and an understanding of the instruments of the orchestra. Embedded at the heart of our curriculum is the elements of music, which run as a vein throughout the course of a student's learning at KS3.

In year 8, students continue their learning, building upon their knowledge from year 7, understanding new concepts relating to rhythm and notation. More terminology is introduced to stretch student understanding as they develop an understanding of music. New concepts relating to the elements of music are added throughout year 8

that are applied through various mediums of practical playing of instruments and singing, and through two music DAWs; Sibelius and FL Studio. These software's are introduced as early as year 8 to show students where the music industry is currently, very much based around technology. With a firm foundation of musical knowledge, students can begin to tackle this new world.

In year 9, students delve even further into music, with larger projects along a similar theme, using technology and practicality at the centre. This also includes a topic which looks specifically at some of the roles that are available to students in the music industry should they wish to pursue a career in music.

Embedded within the curriculum are opportunities for students to explore the historical, geographical, political and cultural contexts of our world through music. We regularly have conversations with other subjects within the school to link student learning to other parts of our school curriculum. This aids in giving students a holistic view of their education.

Inclusion is vital part of our vision in music, and aim to provide access to all students. The team are kept up to date with any student who requires support so that they can fully access our curriculum. The use of pupil profiles is our starting point to get to know our students, and building strong working relationships is a focus for our department. Our curriculum is written in such a way that it can be adapted and tailored for all student needs, including those of higher ability who may need challenging beyond the current challenge level of our curriculum. This means that every student who enters our classrooms are faced with a curriculum that can see every student succeed.

As students embark on their options process, students can opt to study both GCSE and beyond, A Level music at Toot Hill. With an average class size of 18 over the past three years, we have seen a vast increase in uptake at GCSE. We have carefully chosen Eduqas as our exam board to best give our students a broad understanding of music that appeals to students of today. This continues to A Level, that was re-established in 2022 that has grown in number alongside GCSE. While some of our student's study music to take it further in their life, music is a fantastic qualification that demands much from a student and gives them incredible organisation, independent and communication skills that hold them in great stead for their adult life. Outside of the classroom during individual lessons, students have the opportunity to obtain grades in practical music exams via ABRSM, Trinity and Rock School should they wish to examine in these, but this is not a compulsory part of learning an instrument at Toot Hill.

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.

There are numerous opportunities for students to involve themselves in music outside of the classroom.

We offer one-to-one lessons on a number of instruments that include Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Bass), Drum Kit, Piano and Voice. Students can learn these lessons for either 20 or 30 minutes, once a week. For all instruments aside from Piano, Guitar and Drum Kit, we can hire out instruments for students to use throughout the course of an academic year. At the end of each academic year these are returned and serviced so that students can continue hiring in the next academic year. Students will leave their scheduled lessons for these instrumental lessons, and their times will rotate throughout the course of that day over each half term. This will limit the impact on absence from lessons, but students are also expected to catch up on the work they will miss during this lesson time. As students enter year 11 and then College, we can fix lessons to support preparation for their examinations. Lessons are charged on a termly basis to be paid in advance, and we can offer tailored support to those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

All students can have access to our enrichment programme of ensembles that run throughout the school week. These are led by our music staff and some of our peripatetic tutors also. We currently offer: 2 Rock Bands, a Function Band, Concert Band, Flute Choir, Brass Ensemble, String Orchestra, Choir and a Symphony Orchestra. There is an ensemble for every student at Toot Hill, catering for all abilities of student. All of our ensembles welcome students of any ability other than Function Band and Symphony Orchestra, which are for higher level students in the school due to the repertoire covered. Should students be interested in these groups, other groups train and feed students into these groups when they reach a certain ability. Our String Orchestra and Brass Ensemble run before school, with every other ensemble running after school.

Other than lessons and ensembles, students are welcome in the music department during their lunchtime to make their own music either alone or with peers, making use of our 4 Practice Rooms and our larger Band Room. All of these are equipped with Pianos, but some also contain Drum Kits and we have Guitars and Bass Guitars available for student use. When not using these spaces, we utilise our Concert Hall for public events, and often head out into the local community for other public events.

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.

Students have many opportunities to perform at Toot Hill. We hold two annual concerts each year for our whole school ensembles, Christmas and Summer. This is a chance for students to celebrate their hard work in their enrichment sessions with our music team. Our Symphony Orchestra also have an annual concert where they perform large scale works that they work on during their rehearsals. This year we introduce an Instrumental Lesson Showcase where students of all abilities have the opportunity to perform and celebrate the hard work achieved throughout the year. We also introduce a recital evening for our KS4 and KS5 students, showcasing their hard work and dedication to their instruments and their studies. This is a great opportunity for all students to see what they can aspire to in their musical career also.

On a biannual basis, we run a school show. In 2023 we performed We Will Rock You! at Jubilee Hall in Bingham Arena. This was the school's first show since COVID, and was enjoyed thoroughly by all students involved. Our school show for this academic year is Matilda, which we will start rehearsals Autumn of 2024. Other than this, there have been opportunities for students to perform in local churches for charity and fundraising events, as well as our Function Band being invited to play in the gardens of Belvoir Castle, supporting a summer event for the Rosie May Foundation. Whenever opportunities can arise for our students, we support them in gaining the best experience possible and making the most of all that is set out before them.

In the future

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

As time moves on, we are continually reviewing what we can offer students as the department grows. There are instruments that aren't currently learnt by students at Toot Hill, and we will do everything we can to inspire students and provide them with the ability to follow their passions.

We aim for our ensembles to grow and be a place that a large proportion of the student population at Toot Hill will be drawn to.