

Music development plan summary: Whitworth Community High School

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs D Goff
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Lancashire Music Service .
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Rochdale Music Service

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.

All students in Y7-9 have one hour of curriculum music per week, all taught by subject specialists.

The details of the curriculum are available on the school website, including the topic overviews for each unit of work. Details are given about how the curriculum is designed and how it is informed by the model music curriculum and fulfils the requirements set out in the National Curriculum for Music.

Students have the opportunity within music lessons to learn to play the keyboards, to play the Ukulele as a class and in small ensembles, and to develop their vocal skills through whole class singing. Students who play musical instruments have the opportunity to play and practise their instruments in some of the units of work in KS3.

We have close links with both Lancashire Music Service and Rochdale Music Service. The music lead attends network meetings with both Music Services, and takes full advantage of what the music services offer. Through the links with

LMS and RMS, instruments have been ordered through a grant system, free access to Sound Trap and Focus on Sound has been purchased through LCC upgrade service and students have had lots of opportunities to both attend live performances and take part in performing in concerts with other local schools.

Students who have instrumental lessons have the opportunity to take graded music exams (ABRSM). Funding for Pupil Premium and disadvantaged students is accessed. At KS4, GCSE music is available as an option subject for students, following the Edexcel GCSE Music qualification.

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.

Instrumental tuition is available to all students throughout Y7-11. Music tuition is provided by Rochdale Music Service and independent music tutors are employed through HWMusic. We have 9 peripatetic music teachers at Whitworth, with over 150 students taking music lessons each week.

Tuition is available on: Woodwind, Brass, Piano, Keyboard, Violin, Drum Kit, Guitar (Acoustic, Electric and Bass) and Voice. Students have the option to have one-to-one, or small groups lessons. Lessons are heavily subsidised by the school, with parents paying a contribution towards the lessons. Students eligible for Pupil Premium funding have their lessons for free. All students learning to play a music instrument are provided with free hire of an instrument from either Rochdale Music Service or from school (with the exception of drum kit and piano - keyboards are provided if required).

Students have many opportunities to get involved in ensembles outside of lessons. All of these are free of charge, and are run by school staff and peripatetic staff.

- **Wind Band (all brass, woodwind and percussion)**
- **Beginner Wind Band**
- **Year 7 Brass Group**
- **Ukulele Club**
- **Flute Group (student-led)**
- **Vocal Group**
- **Rock Bands**
- **Keyboard Club**

We have close links with Rochdale Music Service and with Whitworth Brass Band and The 2nd Rossendale Scout Band. We actively encourage students to attend these bands and the Bands and Vocal Groups at Rochdale Music Service. Many of our students attend these groups outside of school, broadening their musical experiences.

Three practice rooms are available for students to use for independent practice, and students make use of these on a regular basis: before school, at breaktimes, lunchtimes and after school. There is a booking system for the Rock Band room, to ensure fair access to all students.

The music classroom is open every break time for keyboard club, and a large number of students access this facility for independent practice.

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.

Each year, students can take part in a large number of musical experiences, both in school and within the community. Students enjoy being able to perform in different venues and for different audiences. All students in school have the opportunity to be involved in the music ensembles.

Annual performance opportunities include:

- **Annual school musical - October 2025 'Once Upon a One More Time' (all year groups can take part)**
- **Joint concert November 2025 (annual joint concert - this year's joint concert is with two other local music ensembles and is a charity fundraiser for Drum Beat at Thrum Hall Methodist Church)**
- **Christmas Concert - December 2025 (all groups/ensembles perform at this concert at school)**
- **Whitworth Community Carol Service- December 2025 (the Vocal Group perform at this at The Ashcroft)**
- **RMS - Singing Festival - March 2026 (the Vocal Group and Vocal Soloists perform at this at St Mary in The Baum)**
- **RMS - Music Showcase- May 2026 (the Wind Band perform at this event at The Curtain Theatre)**
- **Opera Performance - June 2026 (the Vocal Group take part in RMS joint opera project with other local primary and secondary schools - last year's Opera was Carmen)**
- **Summer Concert - July 2026 (all groups perform at this concert at school)**

- Performances in school assemblies (an opportunity for our ensembles and soloists to perform during school assemblies - this takes place each term)

Annual performance opportunities for students to hear live music and watch live performances include:

- Three trips per year to see Whitworth Amateur and Musical Dramatic Society's performances (2x musicals and 1x Panto each year). Our links mean that students are given reduced price tickets, and PP funding pays for tickets for students to attend who would not otherwise have the opportunity. The performances take place at St John's Hall in Whitworth and The Curtain Theatre in Rochdale
- National Youth Orchestra - Students in the Wind Band and Beginner Band are invited - Tickets are free of charge (February 2026 - Blackpool Tower Ballroom)
- Black Dyke Brass Band - All students are welcome to attend and PP students will have their tickets funded (May 2026 - Rochdale Town Hall)
- GCSE Set Works Concert by The Halle Orchestra - small charge, funded for PP students (The Bridgewater Hall)
- Regular trips to The Lowry, the Palace Theatre and The Opera House take place each year to see musicals and plays (at least 3 per year)
- Rochdale Sixth Form Musical - we are invited each year to attend this and take GCSE Music and Drama students
- Assembly performances - all students in school have the opportunity to hear live performances by our musical ensembles and soloists in assemblies on a regular basis

We have close links with many high calibre musicians from The Black Dyke Band, Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band and Milnrow Brass Band. Former students, many of whom have gone on to study music at prestigious Music Colleges, also regularly join our school band for rehearsals and concerts. Playing alongside these performers, and hearing about the musical successes of our alumni, helps to raise our students' aspirations.

We are fortunate to have many staff in school who are musicians. We have six members of teaching and peripatetic staff and players from the local community, who play with our school band on a weekly basis.

In the future

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

In addition to the opportunities currently on offer at Whitworth Community High School, we have the following planned to further enhance our music provision and to ensure that even more students have the opportunity to learn musical instruments and have greater performance opportunities:

- **Year 7 Brass opportunities - from September 2025, all Y7 students will be given the opportunity to have half a term of free brass lessons in a group, with the option for them to take up further brass lessons if they wish. Funding for further lessons is available for PP students.**
- **'Whitworth's Big Sing' - planned for April 2026. All Y7 pupils will take part in a Singing Showcase, to which parents will be invited. Each class will perform 2 songs, and opportunities will be available for soloists to perform.**
- **Music theory classes - these are planned to start in January 2026, with the aim of providing students with an opportunity to develop their understanding of music theory to support their learning in class and within their instrumental lessons.**