

Music development plan summary: Rainhill High School

All schools should have a music development plan from academic year 2023-24. Schools are expected to publish a summary of their plan on their website from academic year 2024-25.

This template is designed to support schools to produce the summary. It should set out how the school will deliver high-quality music provision in curriculum music, co-curricular music and musical experiences, taking into account the key features in the [national plan for music education](#):

- **timetabled curriculum music of at least one hour each week of the school year for key stages 1 to 3**
- access to lessons across a range of instruments, and voice
- a school choir or vocal ensemble
- a school ensemble, band or group
- space for rehearsals and individual practice
- a termly school performance
- opportunity to enjoy live performance at least once a year

The summary should reflect your school's music provision for the given school year and your plans for subsequent years. It should also refer to any existing partnership with your local music hub or other music education organisations that supports the school with music provision.

Before publishing your completed summary, delete the advice in this template along with this text box.

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024-2025
Date this summary was published	22/07/2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	18/07/2025
Name of the school music lead	Alexander Kennett
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Pete Roberts (Assistant Principal)
Name of local music hub	St Helen's Music Service
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.

Our Key Stage 3 music curriculum currently consists of one lesson delivered every two weeks. By the academic year 2025-2026 we are hoping to rework the curriculum to meet the desired minimum of one lesson per week.

The year 7 curriculum mainly explores the fundamental skills required for the various instruments that we use including the voice. We explore singing as an ensemble, African drumming, and other percussion applications in term 1. In term 2, students learn how to use a keyboard with both hands using correct technique. Students also start to develop their ability to read pitch using staff notation. In term 3, students learn about the orchestra along with the four orchestral families of instruments. The ukulele is the practical focus of this term, with students learn to play basic chord progressions as an ensemble.

The year 8 curriculum focuses on the most prominent musical genres of the last century: pop, rock and hip-hop. Each term consists of an overview of the genre's development as well as practical engagement with iconic songs from the genre. Both instrumental skills and knowledge of musical notation are further developed and applied in year 8 music.

The year 9 curriculum explores three more musical genres: blues music, film music and EDM. The framework is near identical to the year 8 curriculum save for the more purposeful application of improvisational skills and composition skills (in blues and film music respectively). At this stage, the three main areas outlined in the model music curriculum are being developed: performance skills, composition skills and listening skills.

Throughout all three years of Key Stage 3 music, students will be able to listen and evaluate peer performances in order receive feedback which they can apply to their following performances. This cyclical process allows for continuous development of practical skills over the course of the curriculum.

With regards to our SEND students, we have increased access to the music curriculum over the past few years. Most recently, we have successfully delivered our curriculum to a blind student as well as a student with cerebral palsy. Both students have been able to practically enjoy musical instruments and develop the musical knowledge and skills.

Beyond Key Stage 3, we currently deliver the level 2 BTEC Tech award in music practice for Key Stage 4 students and we teach A level music to those wishing to study at Key Stage 5. In these later stages, students learn how to use music production software in order to not only

compose but record their own music. This is achieved on computers using the cloud-based digital audio interface BandLab which is usable from home as well as in school.

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.

Rainhill High School currently has a choir which rehearses weekly and performs in the end of term concerts. These concerts are hosted in the school's arts theatre and students from all key stages can showcase their talents in these celebrations. We constantly aim to encourage those with a passion and talent for music to form small ensembles themselves and rehearse for school concerts or celebration assemblies which we deliver at the end of each term.

For those students who wish to engage in extracurricular learning, we offer peripatetic music lessons which take place in school and are delivered by St Helen's Music Service. We currently provide lessons on piano, drums, guitar/bass, orchestral strings and orchestral brass. We also deliver peripatetic singing lessons which are delivered by a private tutor within school.

Students who wish to take part in peripatetic lessons need to inform Mr Kennett who will then get in contact with the parents/guardians in order to provide detailed information on the peripatetic system along with its charges. In summary, these lessons are paid for termly using ParentPay. Lesson prices vary each year with the instrumental lessons costing £13.30 per week and vocal lessons costing £7.70 per week for the 2023-2024 academic year. Students who meet any criteria within our DIS-First policy, including students with pupil premium funding, will be able to access peripatetic lessons without parents/guardians needing to directly pay for them.

Through both peripatetic music lessons, and from general classroom encouragement, some students may wish to attend the St Helen's Music Service's ensembles for even further progress. The Music Service have regular rehearsals for many different ensembles including wind bands, string groups, vocal groups, symphonic groups and the rock & pop band. The Music Service also host their own concerts which are well attended and allow for extra achievement in music

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.

Rainhill High School hosts three concerts per year at the end of each term. These concerts allow students to showcase their skills in front of friends and family to provide an entertaining evening but also to develop their stage presence and confidence. Students wishing to take part

in these concerts need only inform Mr Kennett. An informal auditioning will then be arranged so that the scope of the intended performance is practical.

We also host a musical once a year in which students combine both their drama and singing abilities in well-known stage musicals. Our most recent production of Legally Blonde was performed in the St Helen's Theatre Royal, a venue that we aim to continue using in future.

Around Christmas time every year, our school is invited to take part in a carol service alongside other local schools in the St Helen's Parish Church. The school choir rehearse for this event in the Autumn term and the resulting carol service is a wonderful opportunity to perform, particularly for the year 7 students who will have their first performance opportunity with Rainhill High School through this event.

In the future

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

Our most important goal is to move towards weekly Key Stage 3 music lessons – something we aim to have in place from the 2025-2026 academic year. Beyond this, we continuously aim to augment the quality and reputation of the school concerts so that the music in Rainhill High School becomes more pronounced. Furthermore, we would like to develop the music production resources so that students can streamline their compositional processes. For example, the purchasing of more recording equipment and the investment in a higher quality software for students to use when producing music in Key Stage 4 and up. Finally, the continuous refinement of the music curriculum is to be carried out over the years to not only maintain a high standard of teaching and learning, but also to consider new trends, styles and artists that may become more relevant as time goes by.

Further information (optional)

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/music>

St Helens music hub plan – not yet published