

Music Development Plan

Retford Oaks Academy

Overview

Academic year that this summary covers	2026-2028
Date this summary was published	April 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	June 2028
Name of the academy music Lead	Mrs Kirsty Simpson
Name of the local music hub	Nottinghamshire Music Hub
Name of other Music Organisations	Inspire Music

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 challenges we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils, parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupil's music education.

Music Curriculum

This section addresses the content taught during lesson time, the duration dedicated to music lessons, and the music qualifications or awards that pupils can attain. [An overview of the music curriculum for each year group is available on the Retford Oaks Academy Website.](#) The website also details the time allocated for curriculum music for each key stage and term (or each half-term) of the academic year.

Retford Oaks Academy offers a broad and balanced musical curriculum. As part of the Creative and Expressive Arts Faculty it is dedicated to igniting our student's creativity, broadening their horizons and promoting a lifelong love of the Arts. Within the music curriculum, the golden threads of singing and instrumental development - encompassing both solo and ensemble playing - are intricately woven throughout. The curriculum is designed with a focus on sequencing these skills to ensure a cohesive and progressive learning experience

At key stage three students engage in one music lesson a week where they are given the opportunity to explore the world around them through the practical application of a wide range of styles, techniques and genres. At key stage four students are offered the opportunity for the optional study of the BTEC in Music Production. Students are encouraged to develop their performance, composition and listening skills whilst exploring a range of musical instruments, musical styles, techniques, cultures and genres. The curriculum is dedicated to supporting the development of transferable skills and careers that can be applied and developed throughout the wider curriculum and beyond. Students are inspired by the ambitious cultural capital opportunities offered within the department including the whole school musical, Christmas Cabaret, performance opportunities in the wider community, Arts Award, peripatetic lessons and external visits throughout the academic year. We have improved our offer of cross-curricular musical opportunities as well as improving the number of students engaging in Music at key stage four. As part of our curriculum offer all students engage in singing opportunities across the Creative Arts

curriculum developing their singing skills and engaging in two curriculum performance opportunities during year 7. In older year groups students can chose to participate in our Christmas Cabaret event and School Musical through a variety of mediums. Through curriculum enrichment funding students can experience a wider range of musical instruments including djembe drums, ukelele, keyboard, percussion, voice and musical technologies which ensure a broad and balanced musical curriculum. The curriculum provides the opportunity for students to build on their interests through the exploration of a wide range of Western classical music and music from a range music traditions and cultures, including African, Blues, Musicals, Brit Pop, Classical, Rock 'N' Roll to name but a few.

Curriculum Overview

Year 7			
Find Your Voice 1 <i>Why do we sing? What are the health benefits? Exploration of multiple songs through singing.</i>	African Drumming <i>Understanding the music, culture and instruments of Africa. Composing rhythms using djembe drums</i>	Message In a Bottle <i>Singing in preparation for the school Musical. How to read notation. Keyboard performance "In the Hall of the Mountain King". Percussion composition for a theme park song. Elements of Music</i>	Band Skills <i>Ukulele, Keyboard, Drums, Glockenspiels and voice. Chord structure. Developing dexterity across multiple instruments.</i>
Year 8			
History of Music <i>Exploring a wide range of musical styles, instruments and cultures including rock and roll, blues, rap and classical.</i>	Chaos and Order <i>Expanding keyboard skills. Pachabels Canon. Music from 1700's</i>	Find Your Voice 2 <i>Expanding singing skills and developing knowledge of the different styles of music. Singing performance.</i>	Media <i>Film music and its evolution. Exploring composition and performance for media.</i>
Year 9			
Music for the Stage <i>Selecting and instrument to develop a performance of somewhere over the rainbow. Exploring how music is used in theatre.</i>	Ukulele <i>Exploring performance and improving instrument dexterity. Learning chords and strumming patterns of the ukulele</i>	Great Composers <i>Analysing the work of classical composers and developing keyboard skills to perform the work of classical composers.</i>	Variations <i>How music technology is used to compose music. Exploring a range of compositional devices.</i>

Year 10 and 11

In Years 10 and 11, students undertake the Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice, a vocational qualification designed to equip students with practical skills in music performance. This course offers students extensive opportunities to develop their abilities both as solo performers and ensemble musicians. Throughout the course, students explore a diverse range of musical genres and styles, gaining insight into the conventions, as well as the melodic and rhythmic characteristics, inherent to each style. Additionally, students benefit from dedicated time and structured guidance to enhance their instrumental proficiency on a

chosen song, as outlined by the exam board's specific brief. This focused approach allows students to engage in thorough practice and rehearsal, facilitating their musical growth and readiness for assessment.

Retford Oaks Academy offers students the opportunity to pursue the vocational Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice during Key Stage 4. In addition to this, students across all key stages have the option to undertake graded music examinations with peripatetic teachers, should they choose to engage in this opportunity.

Co-Curricular Music

Music Lessons: Through our established links with Inspire Music students are offered a wide range of opportunities to study Music with private lessons being offered in voice, percussion, strings, brass, piano and woodwind. These lessons are delivered by specialist instrumental teachers and are designed to enhance students' musical education through individualised instruction. Students are offered the opportunity through Nottinghamshire Music Hub and Inspire Music to sit graded qualifications in their chosen Musical instrument/s. Through the local county council this programme is fully inclusive with funding available to support students from a wide range of backgrounds including pupil premium and free school meals. This is led and managed through direct billing with inspire music. Through inspire music students can loan a variety of instruments to broaden their horizons and knowledge of different instruments. Further information regarding charging and remissions can be found at [Inspire Music](#).

Free Lessons: In certain circumstances, such as for students that access free-school meals, or those in care, music tuition can be subsidised. Parents or carers can apply for this support directly through [Inspire Music](#).

Instrument Hire: Instruments can be hired through Inspire Music. Information about these fees can be found [here](#).

Music Groups and Clubs: Utilising funding available we have been able to extend this offer to develop a year 7 strings group who meet weekly. In addition to the aforementioned opportunities, students can also engage in Dance clubs which offer links to a wide range of musical styles, a school keyboard club and a school rock band and as part of the school musical, a school vocal ensemble. At Retford Oaks Academy we also have exclusive use of 5 rehearsal rooms where students can choose to practise, these rooms are available to students outside of their timetabled lessons, during breaks and lunchtimes through a booking system.

Primary Schools: As part of our music provision we work closely with other primary schools in the local community with regular opportunities for our students to be leaders in primary school workshop delivery. Through our partnership with a range of primary schools in the local area students perform and share their skills with peers of a younger age. In recent years this has included a musical tour where students led and delivered workshops to our local primary schools, performances at St Giles, Dance festivals and in house workshops led and delivered by our students.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

At Retford Oaks Academy a commitment to inclusion and equity is integral to the curriculum. It is imperative that every student has access to the music curriculum and attains successful outcomes. However, it is recognised that certain students may require additional, often temporary, scaffolding to reach these outcomes. At Retford Oaks Academy we support and

nurture student's musical interests and provide scaffolding and support to enable an inclusive music experience for all students.

Application and Support:

Parents or carers interested in enrolling their child in peripatetic music lessons should complete a digital enrolment form found directly through [Inspire Music](#) Peripatetic lessons at Retford Oaks Academy are designed to nurture students' musical talents and foster a lifelong appreciation for music. Through these lessons, students receive high-quality instruction tailored to their individual needs, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop their musical abilities to the fullest.

Musical Experiences

Musical: Retford Oaks Academy will be auditioning for the annual school musical in July 2026 with performances taking place in March 2027. The cast will work hard during rehearsals, on a Tuesday evening to bring the musical to life. In addition year 7 will be involved in the singing and dancing of this musical during their curriculum, rehearsals for this will begin in January 2027. We will also be hosting local primary schools for a dress rehearsal during show week. Tickets will be available in January 2027 at a cost of £5.00 In previous years we have also included local primary schools in this performance opportunity with students learning a musical number and performing this with the main cast of the production.

Christmas Cabaret Concert: Retford Oaks Christmas Cabaret will take place in December 2026. Auditions for the event will be held in November and students will need to prepare a performance of their choice to perform across 4 evenings of entertainment. We will also be hosting primary schools for a performance during the school day. Tickets for this event are available from the school office for £5.00 and some proceeds from each ticket are used to fund a star at Bassetlaw hospital.

London West End Visit: in March 2027 pupils from Retford Oaks Academy will have the opportunity to go to London on a Musical based trip, the trip involves workshops with West End professionals, the opportunity to watch two West End Musical performances and the opportunity to tour the National Theatre. Letters for the trip will be available in September 2027. The cost of this visit is to be confirmed. This is a trip that happens annually at Retford Oaks Academy

Pantomime Visit: Year 8 students will get the opportunity to watch the pantomime at Newark Palace Theatre in December 2026. The cost of this visit is to be confirmed. This is also an annual experience

Year 9, 10 and 11 Visit: Students preparing to take their GCSE will be exposed regularly to live theatre with opportunities to explore careers within the industry, such as sound designer. These trips will be offered throughout each academic year.

Primary Showcase: Pupils from all year groups will be taking a selection of music and dance to primary schools in June and July 2026 to showcase the talent and broaden experiences for the students of Retford Oaks Academy.

In the Future

Summer Showcase: In the future we plan to enhance our music provision extending further opportunities for the development of music to primary schools, providing music leadership opportunities to our students. As an essential part of this plan we aim to develop the summer showcase, a touring music and dance performance that travels to our local feeder primary schools and provides enrichment opportunities for our students to play, sing and experience live music within the community. This will further support our aims to develop the music provision in primary schools, offering resources and experiences to local primary schools within the community. The plan is to extend this offer through transition by building the music experiences on offer at Retford Oaks.

Equipment: Through the development of our BTEC in Music Production we will aim to provide wider experiences to suit contemporary music education, with successful bids having already enhanced the variety of music equipment on offer, we will continue to attempt to secure funding to continue to develop the equipment at Retford Oaks Academy. Aspiring to develop the DJ equipment and technology on offer to enable all students to experience wider music technology across all key stages of their education.

Arts Award Gold/ Post 16: By 2027 the Creative and Expressive Arts department will be running the Arts Award Gold qualification at post 16 level, with plans to provide professional development for staff to enable this to be delivered. This will further improve the qualification offering for the Retford Oaks Academy Post 16 students as well as providing co-curricular learning and musical experiences. There are also plans to begin offering wider musical qualifications at sixth form level.

Peripatetic Lessons: Through a partnership with Inspire Music and the Nottinghamshire Hub we aim to improve the peripatetic offering to provide a wider range of musical instrumental lessons to improve the provision and provide pupils with more experiences of Music.

Enrichment: As part of our development plan, we aim to improve the profile of the choir across the community, enabling more performance opportunities for our students. The band and choir will perform in the local community at Retford Charter Day, Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw Focus on You event and Inspire Dance festival. The aim here is to secure funding to support the employment of an additional member of staff to support the monitoring of equipment, rehearsal rooms and improve the enrichment offer.

Arts Co-Ordinator: In the future we would like to employ a member of staff in the Arts Co-ordinator role, if successful in securing funding for this position this staff member would be responsible for co-ordinating and running more music extra-curricular activities and supporting the Creative and Expressive Arts Department to improve music provision at Retford Oaks Academy.