

Music Development Plan Summary: Weaverham High School



Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024/25
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Anna Clark
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Sarah Brookes
Name of local music hub	Edsential (Changing to Love Music Trust in October 2025)
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

Part A: Curriculum Music

The Curriculum intent of the Music Curriculum is outlined as below. These are the principles that shape our intent, implementation and intended impact of our subject area on the wider Curriculum experienced by Weaverham learners. We believe that every pupil, regardless of ability or approach to learning, has the right to expect the same consistently high quality education in every lesson, taught by every teacher across our curriculum team. Our curriculum is designed to suit our learners and is informed by the National Curriculum, the New Model Music Curriculum and the AQA GCSE specification. KS3 pupils have a weekly lesson of 1 hour and those choosing to follow the GCSE curriculum have 5 hours a fortnight.

Our vision and values for Music are:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- To encourage pupils to learn to sing and to use their voices, to create and compose music on their own and with others, have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, use technology appropriately and have the opportunity to progress to the next level of musical excellence
- To understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the interrelated dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations

Our rationale for teaching is as follows:

KS3:

- To provide a foundation of knowledge, concepts and skills which will serve GCSE Music and beyond.
- To build on pupils' previous knowledge and skills through performing, composing and listening.
- To provide opportunities to develop their vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness, and understand musical structures, styles, genres and traditions, identifying the expressive use of musical dimensions.

KS4:

- To build on pupils' previous knowledge and skills through performing, composing and listening.
- To provide opportunities to develop their vocal and/or instrumental fluency, accuracy and expressiveness, and understand musical structures, styles, genres and traditions, identifying the expressive use of musical dimensions.
- To provide opportunities to listen with increasing discrimination and awareness to inform their practice as musicians.

Part B: Co-curricular Music

Weaverham High School offers pupils the opportunity to learn to play instruments from all orchestral families, piano, guitar, drums and voice on a one to one or paired basis with visiting instrumental teachers.

These lessons are subsidised with discounts being given to pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding.

Pupils have opportunities to study for instrumental and vocal exams following ABRSM, Trinity Rock and Pop, RSM Rock School and Con Brio syllabuses

Ensembles currently rehearsing regularly at lunchtimes and after school include Whole school choir*, Chamber Choir, Concert Band, Brass ensemble, Flute ensemble, clarinet ensemble, String ensemble, Steel Pan group* and guitar group*. Our School Rock band rehearses weekly.

The school timetable has been flexible enough to facilitate a boys vocal ensemble for pupils, some with SEND or from disadvantaged backgrounds, who find it difficult to commit to lunchtimes or after schools.

All our ensembles are free and are run by either one of the two classroom music teachers or one of our 6 visiting instrumental/vocal teachers who are employed by the school.

Pupils who learn instruments have the opportunity to loan from our local music hub and take part in free holiday workshops.

Many pupils in Years 8 and 9 have used their music making activities to provide evidence to complete the Trinity College Bronze Arts Award which has combined the development of their music skills with leadership skills such as leading a whole school choir warm up, or teaching a piece of Music to another person.

Part C: Musical Experiences

All our ensembles, as well as pupil led groups have the opportunity to perform twice a year in our large formal concerts (Christmas and Spring)

Our Spring concert involves 9 or 10 local primary schools who will join Weaverham Pupils over 3 nights for our Music Festival.

More informal opportunities to perform are produced through the Christmas Carol Service, Open evening, assemblies, an annual Talent Show, Performances at local fetes and community events and performing at the Royal Cheshire Show.

We have recently taken advantage of funding provided by the local Music Hub and worked with a local musician (Jake Barnabus from band “The Luka State”) to help pupil set up a Rock Band, who have performed in gigs in the local area.

Every other year a large number of pupils will be involved in our Whole School Musical, either as cast or in the live pit band, which is performed over 3 nights in February.

Other experiences include trips to the Bridgewater Hall Schools concert with the Halle Orchestra as well as hearing performances from musicians in local sixth form colleges.

Our “Weaverham’s Got Talent” live final is performed in front of pupils who have themselves been involved in performances throughout the year and therefore may be less daunting to those with SEND or those pupils who are less experienced performing in front of an audience.

Pupils have also had experience of live music through hearing rock bands such as “San Quentin” talk about their mental health struggles as part of the “Life Curriculum”.

High quality Music performances contribute to our annual awards evenings in the Summer Term.

In the future

- Ensure the curriculum continues to engage all pupils by applying our 5 “ethics of excellence” strands and whole school priorities in order for all pupils to achieve their minimum expected Grade.
- Develop the work done in partnership with “Musical Routes” to combine rock band instruments with Concert Band to create a “Funk Band”
- Increase uptake of Woodwind and Brass instrumental lessons, through tutors visiting primary schools and create marketing videos to promote their instruments
- Improve accommodation to create more space for small group/individual rehearsal both within the curriculum and during breaks/lunchtimes/after school
- To participate in local/National competitive Music festival
- Continue to offer opportunities that are accessible to disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND
- Develop stronger links with departments in Primary and Secondary schools across the Sandstone Trust