

Music development plan summary: Kesteven and Sleaford High School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	2/2/2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	2/2/2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Heather Kasperczyk
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Katherine Stokes
Name of local music hub	Lincolnshire Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	N/A

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 the 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.

At Kesteven and Sleaford High School pupils in Key Stage Three participate in timetabled curriculum lessons for one hour a week. At Key Stage Four students receive lessons 5 times over a fortnight.

Students focus on developing their theoretical, historical and contextual knowledge through practical application. They develop their performance skills through regular rehearsal and they are encouraged to perform to their peers. Compositional technique is developed and students are encouraged to analyse their performance pieces to gain further understanding of how to form a successful composition.

At the High School we pride ourselves on our Quality First Teaching focus and these strategies can be found in the Music Department. We have shared teaching and learning protocols within the department, which encourage consistency across the

team. Our curriculum is ambitious and challenging but has been designed to continually build on previous knowledge.

Adaptive teaching strategies are in place to ensure a curriculum that is accessible for all and we pride ourselves on promoting a growth mindset to students, encouraging them to find their inner musician and to be more resilient towards making mistakes in performance in particular as they build their fluency.

Our curriculum has been shaped taking into consideration prior knowledge children should have when joining us in Year Seven and building towards knowledge students need when taking GCSE Music. We aim to build on the four areas highlighted by the Model Music Curriculum (2021) through the application of singing, listening, composing and performing.

We have over 40 feeder primary schools and the musical experiences of students joining us is varied. It is therefore important that at the beginning of year seven we gain an understanding of the skillsets of the students joining us. We complete a series of baseline listening assessments, and we make a note of any previous experience they have and current instrumental/vocal tuition they are receiving, alongside any gradings they have completed.

The learning journey takes students through a wide variety of different musical styles and offer students the opportunity to think about historical and contextual influences on the varying genres. We are able to promote cultural diversity and we welcome differing opinions, encouraging students to display British Values as they show mutual respect, individual liberty and tolerance.

We are fortunate that we are able to provide each student with their own individual keyboard to rehearse on in class as we develop their 2-hand technique on piano. Encouraging students to perform a bass line and melody, or chords and melody. Students who are instrumentalists are able to use music technology to record their own accompaniment and perform over the top on their own instrument. For example, a flautist would be able to learn the piano part and record it and then use that as a backing track to perform the melody over the top on their flute.

Having each student working independently on their own keyboard means students can work at their own pace and make realistic progress in line with their own ability. We don't however, want to only focus on students' ability to perform as a soloist, we also encourage ensemble performance. In year eight, for example, students work on piano duets in the 'Classical Period' topic. In year nine, during the 'Popular Music' topic students form ensembles to perform.

Students are encouraged to perform in class, and we have clear expectations about 'audience behaviour' during these performances. We reward students for going out of their comfort zone and as part of the whole-school initiative on Growth Mindset and rewards we regularly recognise student's successes, no matter how small.

Students can choose to study music at GCSE, BTEC and A Level. Through the peripatetic service provided through the school and Lincolnshire Music Service, students can also take graded examinations in both performance and theory.

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.

Students can take instrumental and vocal lessons through our peripatetic offer. We have a variety of lessons available across the week, and these are taught as one-to-one lessons.

However, our private tutors often form duets and small ensembles with their students to enhance students' ensemble skills.

There are many ensemble groups to get involved in within school, over the academic year these will include the School Band, a String Ensemble, Samba Band, School Choir, Guitar Ensemble and Student-led bands.

Students also have the opportunity to be involved in this years' school production, which is a pantomime called 'Much Ado About Panto' this is a collaborative effort between, Art, Dance, Drama and Music departments.

Our ensembles are open to all, and are not audition based. We like to encourage our older students to take the lead, and we are always delighted to see our more experienced students arranging music for ensembles, supporting our younger students and conducting.

Many students like to visit the department at breaks and lunchtimes, and we offer rehearsal space for as many students as we can.

Students studying music at KS4 are invited to attend live musical performances.

Some of our musicians are involved in the Cathedral Choirs, National Youth Orchestra, National Youth Choir, Lincolnshire Youth Orchestra, Lincolnshire Youth Wind Orchestra and other local ensembles.

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.

In- School Performances

Students are invited to perform in our weekly assemblies, they are encouraged to select a piece which fits the theme of the week, this gets students thinking about the meaning of the pieces of music they are performing and encourages students to consider the context of their performance.

We have regular performance opportunities through our concert programme. Students can take part in formal events, such as prize-giving and our whole-school Carol Service in our local church St. Denys', more relaxed performances such as our department soirees and concerts and also our large-scale concerts which take place in the hall with a larger audience. Our concerts are well attended and families enjoy the opportunity to see their young person take to the stage.

Last year we also introduced a programme of Library Live Lounges, which have proven to be very popular, with students signing up to perform in an 'open-mic' type setting in the library. Students who are new to performance particularly favour this performance opportunity.

We also work collaboratively within the school putting on bi-annual musicals. Last year, we performed 'Mary Poppins Jr'. This musical involved input from The Drama, Music, PE and Art departments, as well as support from members of staff in other areas of the school. It is an opportunity for students to showcase their talents and involves students from year seven through to year thirteen.

Within the Trust

We work collaboratively with Carre's Grammar School, and our students have the opportunity to perform with other young people within the trust. This connection also offers the chance for the teachers to share ideas and to create larger ensembles, which builds the skill sets of members of each department as they rehearse with more musicians and a wider range of abilities and instruments.

Instrumental musicians also take part in the Giant Orchestra Day, held at Carre's Grammar School. This day is supported by Lincolnshire Music Service and students work on several pieces across the day before performing them in an afternoon concert to visitors and parents.

Opportunities this year

Our GCSE students are also looking forward to continuing work with local musicians, who are providing workshops to further their musical understanding, especially in composition.

Pricing and PP

Our smaller events are often free or donation, our larger events are ticketed. Students receiving pupil premium are eligible for subsidised tickets.

In the future

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

As a department we would like to ensure that every pupil has access to as many musical opportunities as possible and we would like to encourage students to attend concerts and events. It would be an ambition to get more local musicians into the school to perform for our young people and to encourage their understanding of life as a musician and in the industry.

Music isn't just about being a performer, it encompasses a wide variety of opportunities. We try to promote careers within our learning, and we can continue to build on this.

More use of Music Technology in our lessons would be beneficial to students, and we would like to encourage students to explore the variety of free software available to them at home.

Further information (optional)

Students may wish to take part in the opportunities provided by Lincolnshire Music Service. They run Music Centres in Sleaford and several other areas across the county.