

Music development plan summary: Bishop Young Academy Leeds

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025/2026
Date this summary was published	September 2025
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Sharleen Shaw
Name of local music hub	Artforms: West Yorkshire Music Hub
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	Music Mark

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.

The school's curriculum for music for each year group is published online:

[Bishop Young C of E Academy \(bishopyoungacademy.co.uk\)](http://bishopyoungacademy.co.uk)

Pupils at KS3 have one lesson of music per week (1 hour).

Pupils at KS4 study the Eduqas GCSE course and have 5 lessons per fortnight (5 hours).

Our model is designed to cover the basic skills and key knowledge needed for KS3 pupils to build a love of music, as well as be successful at GCSE if they were to choose the option.

They will focus on the acquisition of core keyboard skills, knowledge of notation and rhythm, developing understanding of the musical elements and key terms to describe them; as well as developing emerging performance and composition skills. Throughout KS3 pupils have opportunities to develop their ensemble skills using a variety of instruments such as acoustic guitar, electric guitar/bass and the drum kit.

Pupils can access teacher-led extra-curricular music after school twice a week. Music GCSE rehearsals and revision take place on Thursday and Friday after school. Pupils have the option to take part in the school production rehearsals which take place after school on a Monday.

Choir and school band rehearsals take place during form time 30 mins every morning. There is also the option to use the music facilities for private practice before and after school, as well as at break times.

The school's curriculum is informed by the needs of the National Music Curriculum. It is ambitious and knowledge rich and aims to provide all pupils with the skills needed to access music at KS4, even if they do not access peripatetic lessons.

Pupils in KS3 music lessons learn to sing, play keyboard, use a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) and learn a band instrument (bass, guitar, drum kit). Pupils perform, appraise, and develop their ability to engage in conversations about music using high level musical vocabulary that can be used orally and written. Pupils will learn to decipher musical notation and have multiple opportunities to compose their own music to set briefs using DAWs and work and perform as an ensemble.

At Bishop Young Academy children with SEND are supported to achieve in all subjects including music. Pupils follow the same curriculum, and adaptations are made where necessary, such as:

- Music teacher working closely with the SEN team to identify pupils who might be overwhelmed by noise. For those who are, there are break out rooms on request to enable them to rehearse in a quieter space. These help pupils access music lessons in a calm and controlled way.
- Music notation can be difficult for pupils with SEN difficulties, particularly those with Dyslexia. We have acronyms to help pupils remember the letters of notes (FACE in the space, Every Green Bus Drives Fast). During piano tasks, pupils have access to scaffolds, including labelled piano key diagrams to help with note finding and a notation key to help decipher symbols. Pupils also have access to both scaffolds and music in their 'Bell Task' booklets.
- Practical tasks can provide challenges for pupils with physical disabilities. In these cases, practical tasks are adapted for the child based on their individual need, with careful consideration about the purpose of the task and ensuring the challenge and key learning ideas are protected.

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.

Bishop Young Academy is proud to announce we have been successful in achieving **Artforms Music Champion School status 2025**.

Bishop Young Academy offers pupils the opportunity to access music outside of the classroom. This includes:

- One to one and small group lessons delivered by Artforms. Instruments offered are electric/ acoustic guitar, bass guitar, violin, viola, cello and double bass.
- One to one and small group lessons delivered by independent peripatetic teachers. Instruments offered are drum kit, piano, vocals and guitar.

The following ensembles are available for pupils to join outside of timetabled lesson time:

Bishop Vocal Group

Bishop Band

Performing Arts school production group.

Any pupil who wishes to learn an instrument is supported to do so. The school uses a part of their pupil premium funding, to fund lessons for pupil premium pupils who have shown musical potential or who benefit from the resilience and confidence that develops alongside music lessons. This has allowed pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who show an aptitude in music to have equal access to musical opportunities.

Pupils can participate in extracurricular music at any point during the school year. Attendance to clubs and the number of pupils who are accessing peripatetic lessons is approximately 12% of the school enrolled pupils.

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.

Pupils have great opportunities to perform, hear and watch live music being performed here at Bishop Young Academy. We offer opportunities for pupils to perform in our Worship assemblies throughout the year such as the Year 7 welcome assembly in October led by Bishop Arrun, the Christmas Carol service at our local Cof E Church St. Richards and our choir will perform at the Christmas Dinner we hold for our local

community. These have been utilised by pupils across year groups and well received by their peers.

Music concerts are held each term for pupils to get involved and perform. These are well attended by parents and the local community, such as the Winter showcase, Key Stage 4 performance in February, BYA Got Talent at Easter and this summer we will host our first Trust Battle of the Band Spectacular, which we aim to be held at the end of the Summer Term where pupils from Abbey Grange, Lightcliffe Academy as well as Bishop Young Academy will showcase the musical skills they have developed throughout the year. This will include pupils who have accessed peripatetic lessons as well as pupils who have only accessed music through timetabled lessons.

Having great connections with West Yorkshire Hub has provided our pupils the opportunity to watch live performances from 'Back Chat Brass', 'Shekoya' and once again July 2025 saw Bishop Young have the privilege to host Leeds Symphony Orchestra. Schools from around Leeds were invited to watch the concert at our school. Pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about the performer's musical career and about the instruments themselves leading to further inspiration and interest.

Music at Bishop Young has been a great catalyst to welcome back parents into school after a break during the covid period. Summer 2025 saw Bishop Young put on Lion King Jr. The show was performed over 3 nights along with a matinee performance for our feeder primaries.

Other ways we enrich the cultural capital of our pupils is offering trips to the various theatres across Leeds and this year our GCSE pupils are going to Manchester Bridgewater Hall to listen to the Halle orchestra which will feed into their GCSE networks for component 3 of the Eduqas GCSE course.

As well as visiting venues to watch professional performances, our pupils have the opportunity to perform at venues across the county such as Morley Town Hall, The Wardrobe, Pudsey Civic Hall and further education establishments such as Leeds Conservatoire.

We are very excited to be performing at the Leeds Lieder Festival again this year which involves the Leeds Lieder Education Programme delivering three vocal and poetry workshops to our year 7 and 8 pupils. This also supports the work on the English Department in teaching poetry and the whole school mission to further develop the oracy of our pupils.

Another exciting opportunity has arisen where our Year 9 students will be invited to record their class work in a professional recording studio at Chapel FM. Not only does this allow our pupils to see what's happening in the local area, but they also learn about various career paths in the performing arts sector. This year we will also be running a trip to Production Park in Wakefield, where students will learn about various careers in Performing Arts

In the future

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

It is our ambition to expose our pupils with as much music enrichment as possible be it through increasing the number of pupils who are accessing peripatetic lessons and extra-curricular ensembles to the number of pupils watching/taking part in live music performances.

Building further links with local performing arts provisions, offering insight into various career paths.

Further information (optional)

For more information about accessing music lessons at Bishop Young Academy please see contact the music lead via email at: sshaw@bishopyoungacademy.co.uk