Music development plan summary: Highdown School & Sixth Form Centre

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2026-7
Date this summary was published	Summer 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	08/2027
Name of the school music lead	Harry Santer
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Andy Franks
Name of local music hub	Berkshire Maestros
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.

Students at KS3 have a one-hour lesson in music every week. At KS4 students have 5 hours per fortnight At KS5 they have 10 hours per fortnight if the class has a full allocation of students.

The school curriculum is informed by the Model Music Curriculum non-statutory guidance for teaching music at KS3.

All students have the opportunity to sing and play instruments during KS3 lesson times. This can be through whole class ensembles, paired or individual work. These opportunities are continued at KS4 & 5 with the students' instrumental specialisms taken into account.

The school is partnered with Berkshire Maestros who offer a broad range of 1-1 and small group instrumental tuition. This is supplemented by a range of private tutors who also deliver peripatetic instrumental lessons.

At KS4 the school offers GCSE Music & Music Technology. These are the same course (GCSE Music) but the performance aspect of the course is approached differently with the Music Technology students taking a sequencing approach. At A level the school offers both Music & Music Technology.

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.

Music Tuition

Music tuition is offered by Berkshire Music Trust the local music service who offer a broad range of 1-1 and small group instrumental tuition. This is supplemented by a range of private tutors who also deliver peripatetic instrumental lessons. The majority of these lessons take place in The Crow's Nest, an area of the school set aside for instrumental tuition.

Extra-curricular Music

Students can join an orchestra, string ensemble, funk & soul group, production band, ukulele group, senior choir, junior choir & barbershop group. All staff are invited to join the senior choir. All of these opportunities are free of charge and are offered as lunchtime or afterschool sessions.

Students can make use of the local music hub Berkshire Music Trust by attending their Saturday Music Centre.

Pupil Premium students are entitled to 50% of their lesson paid for by the school and help with sourcing instruments.

Students are able to practice on their own or as ensembles in the music department during lunchtimes where existing school ensembles and staffing allows.

The school has collaborated with local community choirs and local primary schools to put on singing concerts and

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.

Musical events

The school has a wide range of musical events taking place across the school year outlined in chronological order below:

GCSE Composer Visit (Y11)

Rock Concert (All years)

Y11 Recital

Christmas Concert (all years)

LSO Visit (all years, members of ensembles)

School Production (all years)

Musical Trip (production cast & crew)

6th Form Recital

KS3 Concert

Summer Showcase (all years)

All trips are free to Pupil Premium students and often subsidised by the music department.

In the future

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

Curriculum	**Curriculum Design**	Research KS2 curriculum. Collaborate with feeder primary schools	07/2027
CPD	**School Life & Opportunities**	The lead member of staff for music undertakes music specific CPD every year	07/2027
Tuition & Ensemble	**Instrumental Tuition**	All families of instruments offered for tuition at school	07/2027

Further information (optional)

Berkshire Music Trust