Music Development Plan

Denbigh School | 2026

Date of adoption: 2026/27
Review: September 2026
Lead for this plan: Michael Stroud (Head of Music)

Music at Denbigh School

Curriculum Music

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Overview	Scheme and curriculum intent are available online and can be accessed here: https://www.denbigh.net/education/faculties/creative-arts/ KS3 lessons occur for Years 7 and 8 for one hour each week with a music teacher. KS4 runs from years 9 to 11 and in each year group students receive 2 hours of tuition per week. At A level, students receive music for 4 hours per week in year 12 and year 13. KS3, 4 and 5 music is delivered by the Head of Music (HoD) who is full time and a music specialist and a part time music specialist teacher (currently 3 days a week). KS4 Music Technology is delivered by a Music Technology specialist, and the current course is by NCFE and Edexcel for A level Music Technology. The NCFE course is taught over two hours per week, and the A level Edexcel Music Technology course is taught over 4 hours per week. The department has access to Focus on Sound and Charanga (provided by the MK Music Hub). There is use of Teams for homework setting and data-collection. There is use of a music technology suite containing 30 computers that run Cubase and MuseScore. Two of the classrooms contain 15 keyboards for student use, and a digital piano. There is a Samba Kit,	- Continued development of the current schemes of learning to allow more use of/awareness of technology used within music. Continual development of the scheme of learning to involve Ukulele for year 7 and more music technology opportunities. - The provision for music is in line with the National Curriculum outlined for music across KS3, KS4 and A Level. - MSD to ask IT to update Muse Score in the summer holidays so that it doesn't impact the current GCSE and A level students' compositions. Keep the same currently. - Update/repair of keyboards in MU1 would be undertaken throughout the year. Guitars have been re-strung, continue throughout the year. - Class set of Djembes would be great to further enrich the music provision at Denbigh School. MSD to explore this further, Denbigh school has a percussion kit however, full Djembes would enhance the curriculum and enrichment opportunities within the department. m - Music workbooks have been created for some of the schemes of learning however, this is in need of further development.	1

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
	selection of African Drums, a percussion trolley (one class set) ,16 acoustic guitars, 3 electric guitars and 3 bass guitars. Also, 16 Ukuleles (provided by MK Music Hub) Music assessment is provided mostly via verbal feedback in years 7 and 8. Teams is used to provide results for assignments, homework and online tests. The department follows the annual schedule of assessment in line with the school's policy. Assessment Data all added to Teams to allow for a transparent approach for students to monitor their own progress throughout the year. Assessment in KS4 is provided via verbal feedback, informal assessments in class relating to composition and performance, and assessed essays and other written work relating to music theory and set works from Edexcel GCSE Music. Year 9 GCSE Music have moved to Eduqas and homework tasks are based around the online listening resources that are available form the examination board.	- Year group trackers are being used and new tracker for last year has been developed to refine the data analysis process. Teams is being used more extensively to refine and consolidate data within KS3.	
Singing	Opportunities to sing with the current SoW are available. More modelling of singing from teaching staff would be beneficial. Choir stopped during the end of year show last year due to other show commitments. Choir set up with MSD and LC in preparation for the Christmas concert.	- More opportunities have been provided within lessons, talent shows, end of year productions and Christmas concerts. Singing is being integrated within all aspects of the department.	
Instrumental music	The current SoW allows students to use a range of percussion instruments as well as develop fundamental keyboard skills throughout the year. The extra-curricular programme also provides students the opportunities to try various instruments however, further development on using these instruments within	- The SoW should provide more opportunities for students to explore using a greater range of instruments. Continuing to develop this year.	

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
	lessons will further enrich the music provision at Denbigh school.		
Technology	The current music technology teaching for KS3 is still limited to keyboard functions. Students can record on the keyboards; however, the use of computer technology would develop this further. No other resources in terms of music technology are currently available for KS3 however, after the Christmas holidays we have set up an opportunity where by the Music Hub will hold an after-school club called 'Technology Club' with the aim that year 7 and 8 students will have the opportunity to try various different Music Technology items. KS4 and A Level students have access to computer-based software including Cubase, and Muse Score. These resources are used as required on a lesson-by-lesson bases.	- More technology should be available for KS3 students, and it would be beneficial for Year 8 students to use the computers in the summer term for the topic 'Film Music'. - Updated version of Muse Score during the summer holidays.	4
Opportunities to experience live music performance	Students can hear live performances by teachers and peers within a classroom setting on a weekly basis as required. This is facilitated within all lessons. Students can participate in school trips and performances outside of school. These opportunities are provided by the Creative Arts faculty. These opportunities take place throughout the school year. This is sometimes funded by the school and sometimes funded with contributions from parents.	- 'We Compose Project' has been arranged for the current year 9 students to learn more about the project and listen to a live performance. - Plan the 'Alina Orchestra' event at the stables for GCSE and A level Music students.	1

Extra-curricular and Co-curricular Music

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Overview	Denbigh School runs clubs for students after school. Some clubs are run during break where timetabling allows. Clubs are free for students to attend.	- New Music Technology Club starting after the Christmas holidays.	1
Ensembles	Currently several different opportunities are provided to get involved in music making. These include: 1. Choir – COR/LC - Weds 3-4pm (Starting for a Christmas Choir) 2. Rock Band – MSD/DJW – Wednesday 3-4pm 3. Orchestra – MSD Friday 3-4pm 4. Keyboard Club – Peri Staff - Wednesday - Break 5. Classical Guitar Club – Peri Staff – Thursday - Break Additional opportunities are available for sixth form where bands can arrange certain days to rehearse under the supervision of MSD. Opportunities to perform have been provided throughout the year and are continually developing.	- Music Soiree in the Spring Term to allow students with an opportunity to perform for their parents. - MSD to set up mini breaktime concerts for bands that are rehearsing throughout the year. This is an opportunity that we would like to provide for 'Rock Band Club'. - Christmas concert for selected students to perform.	1
Tuition	All instruments (including voice) are taught in school, and this is delivered by teachers from the MK Music Service. Lessons happen weekly on a rotating timetable which is published in school and is available online via teams for parents and children to check. Students make good progress in their lessons and outcomes are monitored within the department as well as within the Music Service. Instrumental tuition is promoted through notices to tutors, teaching staff.		

Leadership

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Senior Leadership Team	There is a member of SLT that is linked to the Creative Arts Faculty. This member of staff is responsible for overseeing progress and ensuring that data is informing practice.	- More opportunities to use performing spaces.	1
Subject leadership	MSD leads the music department and has been in post from September 2024. The curriculum has continued to develop and includes a well-rounded approach to learning about different styles, cultures and various different instruments throughout the year.	- MSD is responsible for leading the subject reporting to LLS (Head of Faculty). Mike Stewart is our SLT link.	

Accommodation and resources

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Spaces for Music	The Music Department is located in the new block near the Activity Studio and Meeting Hall. The Drama, Dance, Music and Music Technology departments share an office on the same floor. The Art Department is located upstairs in the new block. These departments form the Creative Arts faculty. English currently occupies three classrooms in the same corridor as the music rooms. Mu1/Mu3 are dedicated music teaching room, and most lessons take place for KS3 in these room. Mu2 is primarily used for KS4 Music Technology, GCSE Music and A Level Music/Music Technology lessons. Quite often it is used as a cover room/IT suite. Instrumental lessons take place in a corridor in the middle of the music department in three designated practice rooms. Entry to this corridor is via a keypad. A store cupboard is also found next to the instrumental lesson corridor used to store students' instruments and equipment from the music department.	- Less use of the music rooms for cover by other subjects would be helpful for the department to facilitate using Mu2 on a more regular basis for music composition tasks. Continued request – MSD booking out the room for intervention to ensure the room is used more for Music course students. - MU1 and MU3 has changed layout to facilitate more space to allow use of different instruments within the curriculum. This also allows MU3 to be used for Rock Band Club and other bigger band rehearsals.	1 & 2
Resources available for Music	The school regularly hires out performance spaces, practice rooms and access to classrooms. Resources are cleaned, maintained, repaired and renewed by the music technician and HoD as appropriate. Costs are discussed between HoD and the Music Technician and orders are placed by the music technician.	- DJW to facilitate a working document to be used for instrument repairs/replacements. - Instruments are repaired as required.	2

Inclusion

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Overview	The curriculum is differentiated to accommodate all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes the use of multi-sensory teaching methods, assistive technologies where applicable, and individualised learning plans (EHCP, PP, ADHD etc.). Lessons are designed to be inclusive, with activities adapted to various ability levels, ensuring that every student can participate and benefit from the music education program. The school offers class music tuition in a variety of non-Western instruments and musical genres. This includes instruments such as the djembe, surdo, ganza etc, as well as genres like African drumming, and Latin American rhythms. These offerings are designed to reflect the heritage and traditions of the students, promoting a broader understanding of world music. The curriculum includes study units on music from different cultures, encouraging students to explore and appreciate the musical traditions of societies outside their own experiences.		
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	The needs of children with SEND are assessed through a combination of formal evaluations, teacher observations, and consultations with SEND coordinators and specialists. Adjustments for children with SEND include providing assistive devices such as visual aids, and digital technology. Classroom environments are modified to ensure accessibility, and teaching strategies are tailored to meet individual		

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
	learning styles. Additionally, teaching assistants and SEND specialists support students during music lessons. The school has dedicated music facilities that are accessible to all students, including those with SEND.		
Religion	The music program respects and accommodates the religious beliefs and wishes of families. This includes being sensitive to the selection of musical pieces and activities that may conflict with religious practices. For instance, alternative assignments or activities are provided for students who may be unable to participate in certain performances or events due to religious reasons.		
Financial hardship	Denbigh offers financial assistance for participation in instrumental/vocal tuition. This policy helps remove financial barriers for students who wish to pursue musical education and extracurricular activities. To support families facing the cost-of-living crisis, the school has implemented several measures. This includes offering flexible payment options for music-related expenses, providing information about external grants and subsidies, and organizing community fundraisers.		

Progression

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Overview	Pupils are encouraged to learn music beyond the classroom through various initiatives such as after-school clubs, participation in school choirs, bands, and orchestras. The school also promotes external music competitions, workshops, and masterclasses with visiting musicians. The Music Department gathers information about students' musical interests through surveys, feedback sessions, and direct conversations with students and their families. This feedback is used to shape the music curriculum and extracurricular offerings, ensuring that they align with students' interests. For pupils identified as more able in music, the school provides advanced opportunities such as specialised tuition, entry into higher-level competitions, and participation in elite ensembles. The music department also supports applications to prestigious music schools, universities and scholarship programs.		1 & 2
	The Music department conducts regular professional development needs assessments through feedback, and performance reviews. Based on the findings, targeted training sessions, workshops, and continuous professional development (CPD) programs are organised. Teachers are also encouraged to attend external courses and conferences to stay updated on best practices and new methodologies in music education.	- MSD and COR undertake CPD around best practices and new methodologies in music education. - MSD and COR to attend CPD regarding new GCSE Music course in terms of marking and general information.	3

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
Progression opportunities	The Music department offers a wide range of musical learning opportunities, including classroom music lessons, individual and group instrumental tuition, choir and ensemble participation, technology-based music production courses. Additionally, the school organises performances, recitals, and music-related field trips to broaden students' experiences. The Music department signposts local opportunities such as ensembles run by the local Music Hub, community choirs, orchestras, and music festivals. Information about these opportunities is shared through noticeboards, encouraging students to participate and expand their musical horizons. Partnerships which help pupils' musical progression		
Pupil tracking	Musical progression is tracked through regular assessments, student portfolios, performance evaluations, and feedback from music teachers. The music department also considers students' engagement in extracurricular activities, participation in external events, and personal musical projects. This holistic approach ensures that all aspects of a student's musical journey are recognised and supported.	- Music workbooks for KS3 to further track progress students have made throughout the year. Teams used more extensively to support students understanding of their general progress.	2
Strategy development	The music development strategy is monitored by the Head of the Music Department in collaboration with the Head of Faculty (HoF) and Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Regular progress reports are created, and key performance indicators are tracked to ensure that the strategy's objectives are being met. The monitoring process involves observations of music lessons and extracurricular activities, as well as the analysis of assessment data.	- To continue aligning the school's strategy with the Hub's and/or Multi-Academy Trust's (MAT's)	

area	what happens now	what we would like to see	link to actions
	The strategy is reviewed annually by a review committee consisting of the Head of the Music Department, the Head of Faculty and a member of the SLT. The review process includes evaluating the effectiveness of the current strategy, identifying areas for improvement, and setting new goals. Additionally, interim reviews may occur to ensure ongoing alignment with the school's objectives and to make any necessary adjustments.		

Objectives 2026/27

1. Continue to develop the extra-curricular opportunities and intervention provided to support GCSE and A Level Music results.
2. Develop the way music is assessed across KS3, so each data entry point focuses on a certain aspect of the GCSE Music course (Appraising, Composing and Performing)
3. Develop teaching strategies and subject knowledge for the new Eduqas Music course.
4. Integrate music technology into the curriculum to enhance learning and creativity.

Action Plan

	action	link to objective	who	resources or cost	source	music hub support sought	complete by
1	Continue developing a pattern of performance opportunities such as; introducing performance opportunities with break time concerts and assemblies.	1	Head of Music Music Department Staff	Meeting with SLT link and HoF	N/A	N/A	September 2026 – Throughout the year
2	Develop the extra-curricular provision to include Choir for Christmas Concert and Music Technology Club facilitate by the MK Music Hub.	1	Head of Music Music Department Staff	Meeting with Music Department Team.	N/A	N/A	December 2026 – clubs continued throughout the year.
3	Continued development of the Music timetable to allow year 8 students to use the computers to create Music Technology projects for the 'FILM MUSIC' scheme of learning.	4	Head of Music Head of Faculty SLT link	Meeting and planning time	N/A	N/A	April 2027
4	Purchase new music for ensembles as required throughout the year	1	Head of Music	As required	Music Shops online, arrangements photocopying	Discuss with Music Hub regarding equipment hire.	Ongoing

CPD Plan

requirement	who	link to objective or action plan	how provided	Provider (if relevant)	cost	when
Attend online CPD courses for Eduqas Music	Head of Music	Objective 3	Online Course	Eduqas Professional Learning for Teachers with Eduqas	Free	When courses are available
Attend External CPS Course	Head of Music or Second in Department	Objective 3	External Course	Music and Drama Expo	Cost TBC	11-12 Feb 2027

Evaluation and progress tracking

We will know that this plan is working if _____.

Progress updates

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Action 1						
Action 2						
Action 3						
Action 4						

Year-end report to Governors

Capture any unanticipated outcomes here and celebrate your pupils' and colleagues' musical achievements, particularly anything that is not reflected in the regular updates above. If there are objectives that have not been fully achieved, note the reasons and whether they will be pulled forward into next year's plan.